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FURTHER ON SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION DECLARATION

PY141950 Paris AFP in Spanish 1835 GMT 12 Feb 84

[Text] Vina del Mar, 12 Feb (AFP) -- Luis Arriaga, secretary of the permanent commission created by Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Chile to defend a 200-mile territorial limit, stated today that the four countries harshly condemn the holding of nuclear tests in the Pacific.

The organization, which was created 32 years ago, closed its second foreign ministers conference on Friday in Vina del Mar. The objective of the conference was to reassert the maritime rights of the member countries. The declaration issued by the conference included a section on the impact on the ecology of nuclear tests and the deposit of nuclear wastes in the Pacific Ocean.

Arriage, an Ecuadorean, notes that our countries have always protested against nuclear tests and radioactive contamination and now after the Vina del Mar meeting they will continue to do so, but more energetically. He added: We will be united in our actions directed toward the complete cessation of these.

In the past, Chile, Ecuador, Colombia, and Peru held an antinuclear protest against France, which carried out underground nuclear tests in several South Pacific atolls such as Mururoa and Fangataufa, among others.

COLOMBIAN MINISTER ON CHILEAN-BOLIVIAN MEETING

PY141647 Paris AFP in Spanish 0156 GMT 13 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Santiago, Chile, 12 Feb (AFP) -- Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda has said in Santiago that Colombia will be neither a mediator nor an arbitrator in the negotiations concerning an outlet to the sea for Bolivia through Chilean territory.

The Chilean and Bolivian foreign ministers will hold a meeting in Bogota, Colombia, during the first half of the year.

In an interview granted to Santiago newspaper EL MERCURIO, Lloreda said that we are preparing this meeting very carefully since we do not want this process to end in new frustration. He added that we must first clearly define the extent of this meeting, the framework in which it will be carried out, the specific issues that will be discussed, and the objectives that will be sought.

Lloreda is in Chile to attend the second meeting of the South Pacific Committee which was also attended by his colleagues from Peru, Ecuador, and Chile.

He noted that Colombia is cooperating in a situation which in view of its characteristics should be resolved by the parties involved. According to Lloreda, the Bogota meeting may become a decisive step leading to the final solution of the Bolivian maritime problem.

WITHDRAWAL OF C.A. MILITARY MISSIONS UNDER STUDY

PY142055 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2023 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Feb (EFE) -- Reliable sources have informed EFE that Argentina is analyzing the possibility of withdrawing its military attaches from its embassies in Honduras, Guatemala, and Panama. The sources stated that the military mission in Panama would allegedly be reduced by half and would be headed by an Air Force attache.

The Argentine Government's decision to withdraw its military attaches is due to the official intention of supporting the Contadora Group and of cutting off of the aid of Argentine officers to anti-Sandinist groups. Sources in the Presidency of the nation, the Foreign Ministry, and the Defense Ministry that were questioned by EFE neither confirmed nor denied the rumor.

Foreign Ministry Denies Report

PY150250 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0209 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Feb (TELAM) -- The Argentine Foreign Ministry tonight categorically denied the report that the Argentine Government is planning to reduce the number of military attaches to its embassies in Honduras, Panama, and Guatemala. The report on this reduction was disseminated yesterday by an international news agency.

MARTINEZ MEETS MAUROY, GANDHI IN MOSCOW

PY141530 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1250 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 14 Feb (NA) -- Argentine Vice President Victor Martinez has held meetings with French Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy and Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi during his brief stay in Moscow, where he is attending Yuriy Andropov's funeral. Matinez, who was interviewed this morning by Radio Mitre, said that the funeral of the Soviet leader was also an occasion "to exchange ideas aimed at achieving peaceful solutions to international conflicts." In a telephone interview from Moscow, Victor Martinez said that "we have the impression that everywhere there is a great concern to achieve an understanding."

He added that "this is not merely a protocol ceremony; it is also an occasion to exchange and reassert ideas that will lead to the peaceful solution of conflicts. We are leaving with a good impression." The vice president noted that he attended ceremonies at Moscow's Red Square that were also attended "by other foreign dignitaries, among them Mrs Thatcher, whom I did not meet."

He added that he will leave Moscow tomorrow and that he will make an approximately 36-hour stopover in Paris before his return to Buenos Aires.

NATIONAL MOURNING DECLARED FOR ANDROPOV'S DEATH

PY141325 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1251 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Feb (NA) -- Today it was officially reported that the national executive branch has declared 3 days of national mourning starting today for the death of Yuriy Andropov, president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet. Decree 537 says that, as a sign of mourning, the national flag will be flown at half-mast for 3 days from the day of the funeral, at all national public buildings and in Army, Navy, and Air Force units.

USSR REPORTEDLY PURCHASING WHEAT, CORN

PY142315 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 11 Feb 84 p 8

[Text] An employee of the National Grain Board, who was interviewed by LA NACION, was not able to state definitely whether the Soviet Union had purchased between 500,000 and 600,000 tons of Argentine wheat during the past few days. The source answered: "I think so, but this sort of information is only confirmed after some time has elapsed, since the operation is carried out with private exporters." He added that "the local market has reacted somewhat, therefore, that information is probably true." Should this information be true, the amount of Argentine wheat purchased by the Soviet Union so far would amount to between 3 and 3.2 million tons.

With this sale, the surplus of the last wheat harvest, which amounted to between 7 and 7.5 million tons, is almost secured since between 6 to 6.2 million tons have been sold. In addition to the sales already made, during the next few days there could be an increase in the contract with Iran, which so far has committed to purchase 700,000 tons; a sale of 200,000 tons to Spain; and, probably, 100,000 tons to Egypt as a result of an operation that provides for the optional shipment of Argentine or U.S. wheat.

A rumor that the Soviet Union has started purchasing Argentine corn from the present harvest was circulating in private circles yesterday. There was talk that the purchase involved a substantial amount, but that it does not amount to 1 million tons. The prices, obviously, were not disclosed, but it is believed that they vary between $134 and $134.50 per ton.

COMMERCE SECRETARY ON TRADE WITH BRAZIL

PY142000 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Text] Commerce Secretary Ricardo Campero made statements to the media during a brief visit he made to Mar del Plata. Campero stated that while in Brazil he held talks with Commerce Minister Delfim Netto and Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro on the need to gradually lift the extra-official restrictions which exist in the bilateral trade exchange. The commerce secretary pointed out that these restrictions caused a $250-million deficit which, in itself, is not serious. The serious thing is that it takes place in an $800-million trade exchange.

ENVOY SUPPORTS UK LABOUR LEGISLATORS' VISITS

PY141545 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1225 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Feb (NA) -- Ambassador at Large Hipolito Solari Yrigoyen today said that he is in favor of British Labor MP's coming to Argentina to discuss the problem of sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands with the Argentine Government. "Some British legislators some time ago told me of their willingness to give their views because they did not support Mrs Thatcher's belligerent policy on the Argentine South Atlantic islands," Solari Yrigoyen told the press at Ezeiza airport. The diplomat this morning returned from Venezuela, where he continued the actions started by President Raul Alfonsin to obtain the return of Argentine exiles living htere.

Referring to the possible visit of British Labor, legislators, Solari Yrigoyen stressed that "the Argentine cause is so clear and just that it is very important that prominent people -- particularly if they are British -- have an in-depth knowledge of the legal, geographic, and historic aspects which determine Argentina's sovereignty over the islands."

The ambassador also reported that Argentine consulates abroad have already received instructions from the Foreign Ministry, and "they are receiving reports about missing people from individuals as well as from institutions."

Referring to his specific actions to obtain the return of Argentine exiles, he said that the UN High Commission for Refugees [UNHCR] must subsidize the return of exiles, adding that there has been a misinterpretation in this regard. Solari Yrigoyen said that "the government has requested that the UNHCR in Geneva take care of the exiles who are willing to return to the country.

ALFONSIN SIGNS AMENDED MILITARY JUSTICE CODE

PY150130 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1925 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Feb (TELAM) -- The executive branch today promulgated Law No 23,049, amending the Military Justice Code and introducing the right to appeal before federal courts the sentences passed by military courts. This law was enacted by Decree No 535, signed by President Raul Alfonsin, and Education and Justice Minister Carlos Alconada Aramburu.

BUS DRIVERS STRIKE EXTENDED NATIONWIDE

PY140240 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0155 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Excerpt] The strike of long-distance bus drivers has been extended nationwide to short- and medium-distance bus drivers, who will stop working beginning midnight tonight to demand wage increases and safer working conditions. The bus drivers also decided to gather with their families tomorrow at 1600 at the Labor Ministry, where they will march toward Government House.

These decisions were made tonight at a plenum of more than 500 delegates of the Motor Transport Workers Union (UTA). They mark a worsening of this serious conflict, which the authorities have been unable to control despite ordering its resolution under the mandatory conciliation law and declaring the strike illegal.

The UTA delegates also decided to extend the strike indefinitely until the business sector agrees to reinstate all those workers who have been dismissed as a result of the 10-day strike.

Union Reports Strike Observance

PY142135 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Excerpt] The stoppage of short-distance bus drivers ordered last night by the Motor Transport Workers Union [UTA] demanding better salaries and the fulfillment of other requests was observed by 80 percent of the drivers in Buenos Aires. This information was disclosed by UTA Secretary General Miguel Alberto Rios.

The union leader stated that the stoppage is being observed by 60 to 65 percent of the drivers in Buenos Aires Province. The stoppage in the cities of La Plata, Mar del Plata, and Bahia Blanca is being observed by 100 percent of the drivers, and by 80 percent in Cordoba.

The labor union leader stated that the union remains in permanent session at the disposal of the businessmen, so that they may solve the problem that only they can solve.

Rios added that we only want the salary reclassification we are demanding to be more in keeping with the current situation. A substantial salary increase, which has not occurred during so many years of dictatorship, is necessary.

Rios ended by mentioning the other requests that prompted the measure of force ordered on 3 February. They are better working conditions, a per diem in keeping with prices, and proper food during the times that, due to work reasons, they are far from home.

COMMISSION ON TRANSFER OF STATE FIRMS ESTABLISHED

PY142050 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2330 GMT 10 Feb 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Feb (NA) — The government today issued a decree that establishes a commission that will advise the executive branch on the transfer of government enterprises to the private sector. The commission will be headed by German Lopez, the presidential secretary general, and it is made up of representatives from all ministries, the central bank, the Banco de la Nacion, and the development bank.

The whereas clauses of the measure, issued by Government House, notes that the Radical government has decided that "the group of enterprises that render public services, that exploit nonrenewable resources, that deal with the trade of basic supplies, and that are involved in activities believed to be of national importance" will continue to be government-run enterprises.

The advisory commission, which was announced a few weeks ago by Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun, will be made up of representatives from the Government House under secretaries; the presidential coordination office; the Ministries of Interior, Economy, Education and Justice, Public Works and Services, and Social Security and Health; the central and development banks and the Banco de la Nacion.

The resolution of Decree No 414, which was signed by all the members of the cabinet, states that this commission is not empowered "to intervene in those processes of transfer to the private sector or liquidation of those companies that are already underway."

It establishes that all those government enterprises that "do not fall under the above-mentioned categories, including those enterprises that are in fact government-run enterprises although there is no reason to justify their status as such since their activities concerning national interests or social benefits," may be transferred to the private sector.

The whereas clauses of the decree notes that "it is proper for the executive branch to rely on the advise of a commission which will take into consideration economic, legal, and social factors to make a proper decision and which will suggest the most suitable actions that must be followed to transfer to the private sector, liquidate, or modify the present situation of government-run enterprises."

BOLIVIAN ATTACHE ARRESTED FOR DRUG POSSESSION

PY141334 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0223 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 13 Feb (NA) -- Bolivian Military Attache Major General Elias Ardaya and an Argentine citizen were arrested in Buenos Aires today because they were discovered in possession of an unspecified amount of a chemical substance [alcaloides], police sources reported. The operation was carried out this morning in an apartment located at 1120 Santa Fe Avenue in downtown Buenos Aires by personnel of the police narcotics department.

Bolivian Embassy Denies Report

PY141414 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1250 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Feb (DYN) -- Spokesmen of the Bolivian Embassy in Buenos Aires today denied the report that the Bolivian military attache has been arrested for alleged participation in drug trafficking.

Adriana Abdala, the embassy press attache, stated that "it is not true that General Elias Gutierrez Ardaya has been arrested, because he has been in La Paz for several days." She added that "we object to this type of rumor, since President Hernan Siles Zuazo's government is engaged in eradicating the drug plague from Bolivia."

Argentine Police Deny Report

PY141817 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Text] A few minutes ago federal police denied the alleged arrest of Bolivian military Attache Elias Gutierrez Ardaya which was reported by various publications in Buenos Aires this morning.

BRIEFS

V CORPS POSTING -- Brigadier General Mario Aguado Benitez, commander of V Corps, today installed Colonel Jorge Enrique Mansueto Swendsen as the chief of staff of V Corps. The ceremony took place at V Corps Headquarters, based in the city of Bahia Blanca. [Summary] [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 8 Feb 84 PY]

NEW PETROLEUM DEPOSIT -- Government Oil Deposits yesterday reported that a petroleum deposit has been discovered in Formosa Province. According to the press communique released by the state company, the first tests made at the Palmar Largo X-1 well have led to the estimated daily production of about 500 cubic meters. [Text] [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 31 Jan 84 PY]

SILES ZUAZO CABINET FACES NEW PROBLEMS

Cabinet Changes Possible

PY141354 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0039 GMT 12 Feb 84

[Text] La Paz, 11 Feb (EFE) -- Bolivian President Hernan Siles Zuazo today reasserted his decision to undertake "a constructive dialogue" with the opposition to decisively confront the economic crisis and to strengthen the democratic process.

Siles Zuazo made this announcement in a speech he delivered during a civic ceremony held in Oruro, located 230 km southeast of La Paz.

Government House sources have noted that the president's decision to hold a dialogue with the opposition is related to the need to expand the political bases of the democratic regime and to avoid any difficulties that may weaken the state of rights. According to these same sources, Siles Zuazo is studying the possibility of making some cabinet changes within the next few days. It seems that the president is determined to make some readjustments in his administration, which is being strongly criticized by the political opposition and the unions, in view of an alleged lack of government resolve to confront the economic crisis.

Siles Zuazo called for a dialogue with political parties at the end of 1983, but he did not find a favorable response on the part of opposition leaders, who said that this was done to delay the enforcement of corrective measures.

PCB Considers Withdrawing

PY142210 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1936 GMT 14 Feb 84

[By Adalid Cabrera Lemuz]

[Text] La Paz, 14 Feb (EFE) -- The government of President Hernan Siles Zuazo is once again facing internal disagreements among the leaders of the parties making up the ruling coalition. This situation has again jeopardized the stability of the democratic process that began in this country 16 months ago.

The government decision to authorize the Bolivian Central Bank to repay the debts that the private banking system has incurred in dollars has provoked new difficulties within the executive branch, because the decision has been opposed by the Bolivian Communist Party (PCB).

Despite the fact that the decree was signed by Labor Minister Horst Grebe, a PCB member, PCB leaders have pointed out that "they cannot accept such a decision."

PCB member Ramiro Barrenechea, a former minister, and other PCB lawmakers have decided to sponsor a congressional resolution demanding that the government cancel the decree, which favors the private banking system.

At the same time, Bolivian Communists have begun a series of internal consultations to decide whether they will remain a member of the ruling coalition. PCB sources have reported that the decision will depend on the position to be adopted by the executive branch in the next few days.

Sources close to Government House have indicated that the situation may soon precipitate a new cabinet crisis, because the labor minister has been virtually contradicted by his party. It was also reported that several ministers are willing to resign because of the criticism directed against them by unions, the private sector, and Congress, where it has been alleged they are "incapable" of dealing consistently with the serious economic crisis.

In recent weeks, the Bolivian Government has been under strong pressure exercised through stoppages decreed by unions and businessmen, and through the critical attitude adopted by Congress, where the opposition holds a majority. Unions leaders have charged that the PCB has set in motion a "dual policy" which "pretends to be in line, on the one hand, with the decisions that the government makes to support rightist sectors and, on the other, with workers, because the PCB has sought to promote popular movements."

The PCB is part of the Siles administration. Communists have held the Ministries of Labor and Mines since the democratic government was installed in October 1982, but they have been harshly criticized by their rank-and-file members and by unions.

GOVERNMENT REQUESTS INTERNATIONAL AIRLIFT

PY141418 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Industry Minister Oscar Bonifaz has appealed to international unity to establish an emergency airlift between Cordoba, Argentina, and La Paz, Bolivia. The industry minister made this appeal for the Bolivian Government in view of the complete lack of flour in the country which is driving Bolivians to desperate situations. The industry minister noted that La Paz has enough flour to last only 8 to 10 days, while the southern region of the country has no flour at all. The minister noted that the Industry Ministry has carried out several studies to accelerate the arrival of 30,000 tons of flour, but since all possibilities were rejected the only alternative left is establishing an airlift. Bonifaz added that since this airlift is quite expensive, the wheat will be subsidized and, therefore, there will be an increase in the price of bread.

[Begin Bonifaz recording] There is an alternative other than to establish an airlift between Cordoba, Argentina, and La Paz, Bolivia. Therefore, we are requesting the aid of Venezuela, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, and the United States of America. So far, the only country that has answered this appeal has been Colombia, which has informed us that it has granted authorization for a Hercules plane to travel to Cordoba, Argentina. However, we are still awaiting answers from the other countries. [end recording]

MINERS BLOCK RAILROAD TO ARGENTINA, CHILE

PY142355 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1558 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Text] La Paz, 14 Feb (EFE) -- Bolivian cooperative miners today severed railroad traffic to and from Argentina and Chile in order to compel the government to provide solutions to the national economic crisis.

This drastic decision of the miners has prevented Bolivian railroads from maintaining regular services with Argentina and Chile.

According to the leaders of cooperative miners, the blockade will continue until President Hernan Siles Zuazo's administration puts an economic policy into effect capable of coping with the crisis and benefiting the large sectors of the population.

The railroad which links Bolivia with Argentina and Chile is very important for trade among the three countries and for the transport of Bolivian minerals abroad in view of the latter's landlocked situation. The Bolivian Government has launched talks with the miners aimed at convincing them to lift this drastic measure, "which is worsening the economic crisis, because it has closed an outlet for Bolivian exports," the government said.

COB IN STATE OF EMERGENCY, MOBILIZATION

PY150135 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] The Bolivian Worker Federation has declared itself in a state of emergency and mobilization until the government complies with the terms of the agreement it signed with the COB recently. This was revealed to Panamericana by Arnaldo Morales Gomez, head of the COB economic commission.

In his conversation with this station, Morales Gomez said that the COB will demand that all decrees contrary to the agreement be rescinded.

[Begin Gomez recording] Since there is an agreement whereby the government committed itself to repeal the decree on the promissory notes which has the same significance as the decree to which we are referring, the COB has determined to demand the total repeal of those decrees which only favor the private bankers. On the other hand, the COB is observing the conduct of Industry and Commerce Minister Bonifaz, conduct which is no different from that of his predecessor, who had allowed the economy to deteriorate, to the detriment not only of the working class but the whole country, by adopting improper measures. [end recording]

Morales Gomez then added that the COB has decreed a state of emergency in protest against the government's noncompliance with the agreements signed. He said that several sectors have decided to adopt a state of mobilization to reject the government measures. In view of this, the COB has declared itself in a state of emergency and mobilization as of today.

ENERGY MINISTRY EMPLOYEES OPPOSE GAS SALES

PY131622 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1100 GMT 13 Feb 84

[Excerpts] The Energy and Hydrocarbons Ministry employees reject all intentions to deprive the country of nonrenewable natural resources and have declared themselves in a state of emergency, rejecting the sale of natural gas to Brazil as of 1988. A statement by the trade union to the ministry says that it will take further measures, if the government persists in its antinational policy. The document also demands that the executive branch respect the conclusions of the meeting on natural gas which recommended the preservation of natural gas, opposing gas sales to Brazil. The Bolivian Press Workers Federation also opposes the gas sale to Brazil, saying that this operation would sink Bolivia into misery, starvation, and despair for the rest of its existence, depriving the country of all possibility of industrial development.

In a communique, the federation demands that the president continue with the program of industrialization and preservation of gas, thanks to which he won the elections in 1978, 1979, and 1980, instead of following Banzer's policy, which he criticized when he was in opposition. The communique says that the sale commits 3 of the 4 trillion cubic feet of gas reserves available to the country, out of which 0.7 trillion have already been committed to Argentina until 1992.

The Press Workers Federation declares that the technocrats, who at various government levels are working for an antipatriotic and antinational negotiation, are traitors to the country.

ANDEAN PACT POSITIONS, ACTIONS DISCUSSED

PY141824 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2353 GMT 12 Feb 84

[By Adalid Cabrera Lemuz]

[Text] La Paz, 12 Feb (EFE) -- Ecuadoran Integration Deputy Minister Jose Salazar has stated in La Paz that the Andean Pact must stop being a forum of mere hopes and frustrations. It must strengthen the development of its member countries.

In comments to the press, the Ecuadoran deputy minister stressed that his country is interested in reactivating the Bolivian-Ecuadoran mixed commission to establish a joint position in the Andean Pact, to which Colombia, Peru and Venezuela also belong.

Bolivia and Ecuador, which are considered to have the weakest economies of the Andean economic integration process, should receive preferential treatment from their partners under the Andean Pact resolutions, but these resolutions are not being observed. Salazar said the preferential treatment should be given to Ecuador and Bolivia through specific actions, and it should not be just stated in resolutions, which have not been observed by the other members of the most important South American economic integration pact.

Bolivian and Ecuadoran technical commissions met in La Paz last week to analyze the extent of their participation in the Andean group and to adopt joint measures to strengthen their decisionmaking in the integration process.

The Ecuadoran deputy minister said that the Bolivian-Ecuadoran meeting was a continuation of the dialogue between two countries with similar critical economic situations. He added that "only joint and coordinated actions will enable implementation of the integration process in keeping with the capabilities and needs of the region's less developed countries."

Salazar requested more understanding and support from Colombia, Peru, and Venezuela to permit the economic takeoff of Bolivia and Ecuador and to strengthen the future development of the Andean integration process.

The upcoming meeting of the Cartagena Accord Commission, which will be held in Lima in March, will evaluate the special treatment approved for Bolivia and Ecuador and will adopt measures to implement it.

CHAVES SUPPORTS DIRECT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

PY141542 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 11 Feb 84 p 3

[Excerpt] Brasilia -- Vice President Aureliano Chaves will recommend to those legislators who seek his advice that they vote in favor of the constitutional amendment submitted by Deputy Dante de Oliveira (PMDB-MT) [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party-Mato Grosso] that restores direct elections for president in Brazil. Aureliano Chaves yesterday said that he favors the holding of "direct elections at this time," because "this is the will of the majority of the Brazilian people." However, he noted that the holding of indirect elections will also be legal. He added: "I have been elected for office twice through the indirect ballot -- for governor and for vice president; therefore, I do not reject it. But it is obvious that the majority of Brazilians at this time prefer the holding of direct elections at all levels, and this is why I support this and why I maintain that they should be held now."

Church Leaders Add Support

PY141552 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 11 Feb 84 p 3

[Text] Sao Paulo -- CNBB [National Conference of Brazilian Bishops] Secretary General Luciano Mendes de Almeida, Sao Paulo Archbishop Paulo Evaristo Arns, seven auxiliary bishops of the Sao Paulo archbishopric, and leaders of Christian churches -- Anglican, Methodist, Lutheran, and Independent Presbyterian -- expressed in an official document released yesterday their support for the restoration of direct presidential elections. The churchmen believe that the electoral college "is not legal because it does not represent the Brazilian people." However, they warned that direct elections will not solve the Brazilian people's "multiple problems," such as "unemployment, droughts, violence, corruption, and the lack of agrarian reform." The Christian church leaders met at the Taboao de Serra City Hall in greater Sao Paulo to discuss, among other things, religious education in state schools and an intensification of ecumenical work with prisoners.

The document supporting direct elections, which was unanimously approved during the meeting, was proposed by Methodist Bishop Nelson Luis Leite. The document was signed by Mendes de Almeida, Arns, Leite, Anglican Bishop Sumio Takatsu, Lutheran Priest Eugenio Foehringer, Presbyterian Reverend Roberto Vicente Themundo Lessa, and others. The document, which was released at the end of the meeting, states that "the church does not interfere in party policies, but it strongly supports the legitimacy of the people's progress in the search for total participation in the adoption of decisions which concern their own future."

JUSTICE MINISTRY ORDERS ARREST OF MONTONEROS

PY140247 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Text] This evening the Justice Ministry ordered the preventive arrest of two leaders of the Montonero group who are in Rio de Janeiro. Their cases will be submitted to the courts, which will decide the fate of these Argentine citizens. The arrest of Mario Firmenich, the main leader of the Montoneros, was requested by an Argentine judge to INTERPOL today as a preliminary measure to an extradition request that will be filed with the Brazilian courts. Firmenich and Fernando Vaca Narvaja, another leader of the Peronist guerrilla group, have been located in Rio de Janeiro since November 1983.

EPISCOPAL COMMUNIQUE ON NUNCIATURE SITUATION

PY141935 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Text] The Chilean Episcipal Conference has released a communique on the refugees in the Apostolic Nunciature. The first part of the document says that the Chilean bishops express their solidarity with Nuncio Angelo Sodano in view of the difficult times he and his personnel in the Nunciature are experiencing.

The Episcopal Conference adds that it hopes a solution will be found in accordance with the request made by the pope. The communique then refers to interpretations on the right of asylum. In Point 5, Msgr Sergio Contreras, who read the document, explained the position of the Catholic Church regarding terrorism.

[Begin Contreras recording] The Catholic Church condemns terrorism and violence. It supports the call made by the Holy See, who was himself the victim of terrorism, who, when in Northern Ireland in an address to the terrorists, said: I beg you to abandon the path of violence and to take the road to peace. He made these remarks on 29 September 1979. [end recording]

Msgr Contreras, upon reading the communique of the Episcopal Conference, added that it is the desire of the Chilean Catholic Church that the government grant safe-conducts to the terrorists inside the Nunciature. He labeled this gesture as a lesser evil.

In conclusion, the document reiterates the good relations between the Vatican and the Chilean Government. The document calls on all religious, faithful people to pray for a solution to this unfortunate incident carried out by the four armed extremists who entered the Apostolic Nunciature.

SIX CHILEAN FAMILIES ARRIVE IN ANTARCTIC

PY141920 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Excerpt] The first six Chilean families that are going to settle in the Antarctic have already arrived at their destination. This morning the group left the Pudahuel Airport in Santiago for Punta Arenas, where they boarded another airplane which flew them to the Teniente March Antarctic Base of the Chilean Air Force located on King George Island.

U.S. REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS STIRS REACTION

Opposition Leaders Comment

PY150030 [Editorial Report] Asuncion Radio Primero de Marzo in Spanish at 1445 GMT on 14 February broadcast 8 minutes of recorded interviews with three opposition party leaders on their opinions of the State Department Report on Human Rights in Paraguay.

The first to be interviewed was Hugo Fulvio Celauro, president of the Liberal Party, who said that the report is for the consumption of the U.S. Congress and Government in the context of U.S. policy toward Latin America, adding that "no one can take offense because someone investigates or analyzes the political situation in Paraguay, and in some measure we can even feel happy that our problems are being observed by other countries, which in one way or another can contribute to preventing matters from continuing unchecked."

Continuing, Celauro said that the Paraguayan Government has the same right to instruct its embassies abroad to report on what is happening in the United States or other countries and then pass that report on to Congress. If this is done, we can probably find details that are even more unsavory than those found in this report. The point, however, is not to see the light in someone else's eye, but to realize that the defense of human rights must be undertaken in all latitudes by all persons of good will.

Celauro then said that he only has one objection to the report: its tendency to make broad generalizations, such as saying that Paraguay has been governed by autocracies without interruption. This, of course, annoys any good Paraguayan, because the public knows very well that we have had real democratic governments and that there have been transfers of power which have proceeded normally.

The Liberal Party president noted that the report focused mostly on what happens in Asuncion, and so it does not cover some questions, such as human rights violations in rural areas where peasants are arrested or beaten in police districts for reasons that are not clearly related to politics. This shows that the report was prepared by Americans for Americans.

Primero de Marzo then interviews Enzo Doldan, the president of the Radical Liberal Party, who said that the report contains many points that his party has been denouncing as flaws and defects in our democracy. Doldan stated that "the report depicts an unquestionable political reality in Paraguay. In view of this, it is to be expected that the government will adopt measures to bring about a national political opening so as to reflect a reality different from the one that now exists, because the accuracy of the report's content cannot be questioned."

The vice president of the Febrerista Revolutionary Party, Manuel Rivarola, was the third opposition leader to be interviewed. Commenting on the report, he said: "I believe that the U.S. Department of State report is a true and complete reflection of the political and social reality of the Paraguayan people. I can say that it is an objective and unemotional analysis of the situation in Paraguay. So we can see that our party's position, as stated in its pronouncements and propositions, fully agrees with the Reagan report. We are happy to see that officials of other countries, especially those of the United States, have been able to produce a report that is not at odds with what we have expressed on several occasions."

Rivarola then added that the Febreristas are happy to see that the reasons for their struggle are now understood not only in Paraguay but also in the United States. He concluded by saying that the report is totally accurate, and that it may broaden the horizon of the struggle of the Paraguayan people.

Radio Primero de Marzo noted that all its efforts to elicit an opinion from leaders of the governing Colorado Party were unsuccessful.

Lack of 'Maturity' Cited

PY141233 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 12 Feb 84 p 5

[Editorial: "Shortsighted Giantism"]

[Text] The United States is the leader of the Western world as far as its immense wealth and fantastic technological development are concerned. However, it will be unable to exercise this leadership in other fields because it lacks the maturity and the universal outlook necessary to understand people with their specific idiosyncracies. It has been accurately said that the United States sees the world in the light of its own interests and security and that it is easily possible for one day's friends to be suddenly left alone the next, as the South Vietnamese, among others, have found out.

However, we shall focus on just one of these remarks: the lack of maturity that precludes the United States from objectively appraising the social, economic, and political status quo of other nations. These nations cannot be measured by the yardstick that the United States has for everything, or rather, by which it measures everything blindly because it is a great power and can do anything it wants to.

These remarks are prompted by the irresponsible way in which Paraguay is being measured by this yardstick with no reasonable arguments, with no evidence, and resorting to such offensive generalizations that it is quite impossible to understand how the greatest power of the world can decide to harm, with no in-depth assessment, a country that has slightly over 400,000 sq km and three million inhabitants and is surrounded by the largest, most influential countries of the region, but which has been able to defuse the crisis that could have affected it seriously and at the same time has been able to develop its institutions thus avoiding, on one hand, being smothered by the landslide of extremist violence, and on the other hand, managing to strengthen the main pillars of republican and representative democracy in order to be always prepared for the most meaningful political developments.

The case that we are criticizing did not come from a sensationalist magazine, of which there are many in the United States, for from the columns of the yellow press, of which there is no lack either. It came out of the pages of the annual Department of State -- that is , White House -- report to Congress. From what has been published juicy pickings are plentiful and no doubt the irregular opposition, the usual anti-democrats, who have gone to the Department of State and to the international financial organizations to slander Paraguay more than once, will be very happy. They will hail this absurdity as their own victory, the result of their efforts and proof that their "policy" is aimed in the right direction. They will tell themselves that the more they can do to sabotage the efforts of the government toward an orderly democratic opening based on law and popular will, the more the country, its government, and the people who support it with their votes, will be criticized.

But let it not be said that we smart from the injury. It will suffice to transcribe a paragraph -- which has had the suspicious merit of having been printed in boldface by the advocate of "the truth of circulation" [ABC COLOR] -- to make an impartial judgment of the value of a document that makes absurd statements and distorts clear-cut and easily understood matters.

This is what we have chosen and it seems quite enough to us: "Elections in Paraguay are held every 5 years, however, the possibility that President Alfredo Stroessner's administration could be replaced are severely limited. Some of the political parties lack even legal status and are subject to varying degrees of harassment by the government."

This paragraph makes no reference whatsoever either to the Colorado Party or to the democratic opposition made up of the Liberal and the Radical Liberal Parties. Neither does it mention the Febrerista Revolutionary Party [PRF], which has maliciously abstained to impair the image of our multiparty system. And after these serious omissions, a string of untrue assertions, because the other "parties" to which the report refers do not exist as such. In fact, they are mere associations with neither legal nor political status and, for this very reason, they were not authorized either to play the role or assume the responsibilities that the Constitution sets forth for parties as permanent national-level organizations of democracy. The report is obviously referring to the Christian Democratic Party, which has not yet been able to meet the legal requirements to obtain its recognition, and to the dissident factions of other parties. Such factions, which have not even tried to obtain recognition, have usurped the names of the parties of which they are spliter factions; some of them have neither organization, membership records, nor residence; on top of that, they have joined the PRF to form a "people's front" (which has now become a "broad front" after their first contacts with communism, as was revealed by recent reports datelined Paris, where the PRF president is now staying).

Given the marked radicalization of these factions, which are determined not to normalize their situation so that they can act within a democracy, it becomes easy to see the real origin of the "harassment." And in addition to this harassment, now comes the Department of State report, which seems to be aimed at encouraging the escalation of the illegal opposition, an escalation that is directed not only against the government and the ruling party but also against the parties of the opposition. With this lack of maturity, with this shortsightedness, with this inability to properly assess the details of the actual situation prevailing in each country, with this large-scale manufacturing approach, the U.S. giant has several times proven to be just that, a giant. This has given rise to repulsion, a situation with which Uncle Sam has become familiar in several places around the world.

Report Termed 'Libel'

PY141323 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 13 Feb 84 p 5

[Unattributed Commentary: "That's Just Fine"]

[Text] That's just fine. We repeat, just fine. Because we are part of Latin America, and everyone knows what our peoples have gone through with so much extremist violence on the loose. So much so that it put the United States in the position of returning to the "Big Stick" policy which once made Central America the "weekend" paradise for the magnates of "United Fruit" and other extensions of Wall Street. But let's stick to violence. We said that there was a great deal of violence and bloody violence, and that it continues to be abundant and bloody. But regarding our country -- and it does not matter how others misrepresent, mystify, and lie about it -- we have always maintained that, to defend the republican institutions, representative democracy, and pluralism, we were never forced to resort to repression as it was practiced in other countries, which never lost or easily recovered their democratic image.

Here we do not have torture racks [tablas de sangre], we do not have nameless graves. Here we did not need to cross the border of, or involve our neighboring countries in the capture of retreating guerrillas; we did not have a "dirty war." At no time have we resorted to "institutional decrees," nor adopted the shortcut of a ruling "junta." Here we simply abide by the Constitution, and overcome all crises with constitutional solutions. It is so much so that these solutions made room for the normalization of all legally recognized political parties, the existing party pluralism, the Constituent convention a legitimate constitution and the consequent strengthening of the three branches of government in accordance with the fundamental laws of the Republic. Here we have an executive branch administering an unprecedented process of national reconstruction, a legislative branch with a pluralist composition that paves the way for a civic and political situation which is subject to improvement as long as the irregular opposition seeks its normalization through the law, which is the only way available in a State of Law that repudiates "revolutionary solutions" that are based on force and are, therefore, arbitrary.

Very well. In this Latin American world that has experienced, and continues to experience, so many disturbances, the first thing that pops out in the report (or libel?) of the Department of State to the U.S. Congress on the human rights situation in Paraguay is that deaths do not exist, that cases of missing persons do not exist. As for other cases, the report has so much garbage that it needs to be swept out to make it clean. What an intelligent, observant, and thoughtful reader can see from the start is that for some hidden or unknown reason, the report or libel was written with some yeast, and thus it is so "puffed out" that it bursts by itself. It should not be analyzed as a whole, but should be looked at point by point. It is eager to point out as a defect that in Paraguay there is no trial by jury as in the United States, forgetting that our system is the one which prevails throughout Latin America. Why then mention it, just to confuse people with half truths that are the worst and most condemnable lies. And the same thing goes for whole paragraphs and chapters: If they are pruned in the name of truth and objectivity, and if the appropriate deodorant is used to remove from it the interventionist odor, very little is left of the report, the critical tone of which is already a form of unjust and arrogant provocation. Very little will indeed be left, and so we say as in the beginning: That's just fine.

Translation Said 'Doubtful'

PY150210 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 14 Feb 84 p 5

[Text] There is a Latin dictum which, translated into Spanish, says more or less that to translate is to betray. This is not meant as an accusation, but it establishes a truth. The translation of ideas, thoughts, judgments, and accounts from one language to another poses serious problems. There are words which bear the same meaning, but differ in sense or in connotation. There are whole phrases which may have a faithful semantic rendition but a misconstrued and spurious political rendition.

The language of a nation is the product of its "way of thinking," its philosophy, its social, political, economic, and cultural approach. If the translator is not acquainted with these insights of the language being translated and yet he translates, then he does not translate -- but rather he betrays.

This is true to such an extent that the foremost intellectuals of our era usually are multilingual because they regard this as a way to be intellectually honest in reading the works of other great thinkers in their original tongue.

Borges has said that to read the works of Kierkegaard or Shakespeare in Spanish is tantamount to missing 80 percent of their meaning. And now, to make sure, Borges, even blind, is studying Hindi to delve in the "true essence" of the literature of that complex civilization.

Let us not talk then, about the haste, truly revealing, of the ABC translation of the statement issued by the Department of State on the situation of human rights in Paraguay. But in principle, let us doubt its faithfulness.

Because it may well be that the above-mentioned report is not the result of an investigation conducted by the Department of State but a report fabricated here for the use and consumption by the Department of State. This would lead to an oddity, such as ABC [COLOR]'s possession of a Spanish "translation" of a document written in English, BEFORE [printed in boldface type] the latter was released. This means that the translation is not a translation but an original.

Or, it may be that there are TWO [printed in boldface type] translations of the document in English. The one that ABC [COLOR] "has ordered" so hastily, and the one that the U.S. Embassy is to release, which is unbelievably slower (the Americans, usually so electronic, so computerized) than the one that a second-rate Paraguayan newspaper is able to put together...to "the minute."

This is good reason for the Paraguayan people to regard the above-mentioned document's impartiality as extremely doubtful.

Is this not so?

ALAN GARCIA ELECTED APRA PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

PY141742 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0944 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Lima, 14 Feb (EFE) -- With his appointment as APRA [American Revolutionary Popular Alliance] presidential candidate, Alan Garcia Perez, a lawyer with social democratic inclinations, heads the race for the 1985 presidential elections. Garcia, who was elected APRA secretary general 1 year ago, was successful Sunday evening in the first stage of the APRA's race to the presidential palace, when he obtained the massive support of party militants in internal party elections.

With the withdrawal from the election list of his sole opponent, Javier Valle Riestra, who is also a lawyer, the voting became a virtual referendum of support for the APRA renewal movement from the different APRA sectors. The result of the voting, 94 percent in support of Garcia, confirms the secretary general as the undisputed leader of the party, which is the most important party in Peru after the municipal elections last November. The vote also supports the modernization plan undertaken by the young politician.

LIMA MAYOR NOT TO BECOME PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

PY141431 Lima Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Lima Mayor Alfonso Barrantes' decision not to become a presidential candidate, at least for now, for the United Left in the 1985 presidential elections prompted different reactions from two of his party members. While Senator Carlos Malpica supports Barrantes, Rolando Brena said that if the grassroots of the party should draft him, he will have to accept the nomination.

MILITARY CHIEF ON CAMPAIGN AGAINST ARMED FORCES

PY141810 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0220 GMT 13 Feb 84

[By Carlos Lareau]

[Text] Ayacucho, Peru, 12 Feb (EFE) -- General Adrian Huaman, military chief of Ayacucho Province, has stated that charges of "missing" persons in the area are part of a slander campaign against the police and military forces.

General Huaman, who assumed the command of the emergency zone that was declared 1 year ago in the central mountain region, last night stated that the struggle against the "Shining Path" will not be won "unless there is a change in the socioeconomic situation" of the region, which is one of the poorest of Peru. Huaman noted that 17 billion soles ($6.8 million) were allocated to undertake infrastructure works in the region to create more jobs and to improve living conditions in the area. The military chief said that the forces under his command, whose number he refused to specify but which are estimated at 7,000 to 10,000 soldiers and policemen, have intensified their presence in the rural areas from where the terrorists were literally expelled in 1980 and 1981.

General Huaman said that "at this time Shining Path lacks power in all regions, but we are aware that in addition to the presence of the Armed Forces, those government representatives who abandoned the most dangerous areas must also resume their duties." He said that he studied several of the 1,500 charges of "missing" persons and found that the majority of these charges were false: "The most important strategy used by subversives is to discredit police forces and government representatives." The military chief of the Ayacucho region -- which is inhabited by 800,000 persons -- said these charges may concern persons who have left the area because of fear or because they are "Shining Path" members.

However, he requested all citizens to submit all evidence to the Interior Ministry, and he guaranteed that the courts will be free to investigate and to issue decisions regarding the many charges of torture and police abuse that have been raised.

General Huaman said he is not familiar with the case of Esther Cardenas, a 6-months pregnant 19-year-old who is still recovering at Ayacucho hospital after having spent several days in a police station. Esther Cardenas told EFE that she was taken from her house by hooded persons to a building that she was unable to identify. She added that she was tortured and questioned about "Shining Path," an organization in which she says she is not involved.

General Huaman denied the charges, stating that the Armed Forces are not involved in cases like those mentioned by Esther Cardenas. He also denied the existence of secret detention centers in the region, which was declared in a state of emergency and in which constitutional guarantees have been suspended for over a year.

GOVERNMENT PURCHASING 24 FRENCH MIRAGE-2000'S

PY141345 Paris AFP in Spanish 2025 GMT 11 Feb 84

[Text] Lima, 11 Feb (AFP) -- Oscar Trelles, the chairman of the Senate defense committee, today said in Lima that the purchase of French-manufactured Mirage planes by Peru does not mean that Peru has a militaristic spirit.

Senator Trelles, who is a high-ranking leader of the Popular Action [AP] government party, added that negotiations are underway to replace the obsolete Mirage planes that Peru purchased in 1966. He said that at present the financing of these planes is being discussed. Trelles said that the renewal of equipment in the Peruvian Air Force should not cause an arms race in the region. He added: "There is a balance in this regard in South America." He noted that Peru has no aggressive plans, but that rather the bitter lesson of history has taught us that we should seek to be strong to safeguard the security and integrity of our borders.

At present, General Marc Chuchte, the director of Inter-American and Arms Affairs of the French Defense Ministry, is visiting Peru. The French visitor has held meetings with the Air Force minister and the Peruvian Air Force commander. His visit is concerned with the purchase of the 24 Mirage-2000's by Peru.

OPPOSITION PARTIES DISAGREE ON ELECTION STRATEGY

PY141515 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0857 GMT 10 Feb 84

[By Alberto Pepe Leira]

[Text] Montevideo, 10 Feb (EFE) -- A schism within the proscribed leftist coalition and disagreements among the members of the opposition today set new paths for an eventual agreement with the military for the democratization of Uruguay.

The most outstanding leaders of the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), the most important leftist party, dropped out of the coalition during the past few hours because of a lack of agreement for the remaining proscribed groups to protest against violence.

This information reveals that the Christian Democrats no longer agree with their fellow communists, socialists, and ultraleftists, with whom they supported General Liber Seregni's candidacy for president in 1971. Seregni is currently being held under arrest by the military regime.

The most important PDC politicians, Juan Pablo Terra, Daniel Sosa Diaz, Jose Veiga, Carlos Sanmarco, and Walter Cancela, abandoned their posts in the party leadership when disagreements flared over a declaration "rejecting violence and supporting a democratic government scheme."

The group that was against the declaration first wanted to strengthen the leftist "broad front" before issuing a declaration of that sort.

However, the Christian Democrats, who are aware that the military is willing to lift the political ban on them, want to secure the Armed Forces' support by issuing a declaration of "nonviolence."

In addition to the schism within the leftist forces, the opposition Blanco and Colorado sectors have in the last few hours expressed ideas with different strategies aimed at reaching an agreement for the democratization of the country through national elections as promised by the military regime, elections which are less than 10 months away.

The problem within the Blanco Party is very complex because of the radicalization of this sector after the "de facto" government decided to maintain the proscription on Blanco leader Wilson Ferreyra Aldunate, who has been proclaimed presidential candidate by his party's majority.

There are people within this party, the largest in Uruguay, who believe that if Ferreyra Aldunate is not rehabilitated, the party should abstain from participating in the elections. But, there are others who believe that despite the proscription on Ferreyra Aldunate, the party should prepare alternatives to satisfy the military's demands.

The Colorado sector has warned of the "dangers of radicalization," and observers therefore believe that this party has shown more political astuteness in handling the problem with the military regime.

In view of this situation, the military regime's comments have been more optimistic. Recently the interior minister himself labeled the moderation of the party's declarations as "praiseworthy."

Now that there are only 289 days left before the elections, which are going to put an end to 12 years of military rule, the political environment has suffered some abrupt changes in positions which until very recently seemed to be incompatible.

TRADITIONAL PARTIES REQUEST SEREGNI'S RELEASE

PY141329 Paris AFP in Spanish 0046 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Montevideo, 13 Feb (AFP) -- The top leaders of the traditional Uruguayan parties have submitted a habeas corpus petition to a military court requesting the release of General Liber Seregni, who was imprisoned in 1976, reliable sources have reported. According to the same sources, the petition was signed by Julio Maria Sanguinetti and Juan Pivel Devoto, top leaders of the Colorado and Blanco Parties, respectively.

AQUI CENSORED; 'EMERGENCY' ISSUE PRINTED

PY141940 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Text] The weekly AQUI has been put under censorship since 1700 yesterday. Today the weekly was printed as an emergency 16-page edition in black and white, but it will not be released today. If it passes censorship, and after those responsible for the publication are notified, it will be put on sale tomorrow.

PRESIDENT GIVES NAVAL OFFICERS NEW ASSIGNMENTS

PY150100 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] Three rear admirals have been given new assignments. Jose Imizcoz was designated chief of the Navy General Staff, Jorge Fernandez was designated national Navy prefect, and Jorge Laborde was designated commander of the sea forces. The designations are included in a decree signed by the president of the republic and the defense minister.

AMBASSADOR'S EVACUATION FROM BEIRUT REQUESTED

PY112000 Paris AFP in Spanish 1247 GMT 11 Feb 84

[Text] Montevideo, 11 Feb (AFP) -- It was reported here today that because of the worsening situation in Lebanon, the Uruguayan Government has requested International Red Cross assistance in the evacuation of its ambassador in that country, Guillermo Stewart, who was wounded during an attack a few days ago. Foreign Minister Carlos Maeso has sent a telex to the International Red Cross requesting the evacuation, as soon as possible, of the Uruguayan diplomat, who is hospitalized at the American Hospital in Beirut recovering from the submachine gun wounds inflicted by a Muslim in the hotel lobby where Stewart was staying.

GUATEMALAN MINISTER ON 6-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT

FL142225 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2025 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Text] Mexico City, 14 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Guatemalan Agriculture and Food Minister Rodolfo Perdomo Menendez has stated that Guatemala is interested in conducting negotiations on and trying to increase the trade of agricultural and fuel products with Mexico.

Within the framework of a 6-day official visit here, Perdomo Menendez said that his country wants to sell its beef surplus -- dressed or on the hoof -- rubber, sugar, and essential oils in exchange for petroleum. The Guatemalan minister also said that he favors a rational and fair trade between the two countries in hydraulic resources, a topic which is being studied. He noted that during his stay in Mexico he will visit various experimental crop areas where the World Center for the Research of Wheat, Corn, and Other Grains [Centro Mundial de Investigaciondes del Trigo, Maiz y Otros Cereales -- CMIT] is conducting scientific work.

Regarding the Guatemalan refugees who are in the State of Chiapas, on Mexico's southern border, he said that the government of General Carlos Humberto Mejia Victores is giving every guarantee for their return to the country. The Guatemalan minister will meet with President Miguel de la Madrid, Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources Secretary Horacio Garcia, and Commerce and Industrial Development Secretary Hector Hernandez Cervantes.

ENERGY AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED WITH ALGERIA

FL141400 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0015 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Text] Mexico City, 13 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- The Algerian Embassy announced here today that Mexico and Algeria will sign a cooperation agreement on energy technology, with the possibility of expanding it to include all areas of production. Dani Benhchaa, first secretary of the embassy, said that the Algerian committee, headed by Sadek Boussena, secretary general of the Ministry of Energy and Petrochemical Industries, and the Mexican Secretariat of Energy, Mines, and Parastatal Industry will sign the agreement. The diplomat added that the delegation arrived last Friday to exchange ideas and examine the possibilities of setting up mechanisms for South-South (between underdeveloped countries) cooperation between the two nations. He said that the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria produces 750,000 barrels of oil daily and has developed domestic technology for the manufacture of chemical and petrochemical products.

Benhchaa said that the Algerian officials were invited by the Mexican Secretariat of Energy, Mines, and Parastatal Industry to discuss general topics and to seek points of agreement on the petroleum market situation. The diplomat said that the delegation is comprised of seven Algerian officials and that they have met with Mexican energy authorities to seek possibilities for bilateral cooperation.

FIVE CABINET MEMBERS RESIGN POSITIONS

PA142338 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2308 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Text] Panama City, 14 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- Five ministers from former Panamanian President Ricardo de la Espriella's cabinet have submitted their "irrevocable" resignations to new President Jorge Illueca. According to official sources, the ministers who have resigned are: Gabriel Castro, minister of finance and treasury; Carlos Hoffman, minister of commerce and industries; Carlos Clement, minister of public works; Gaspar Garcia de Paredes, minister of health; and Mario de Diego, minister of the Presidency.

According to official sources, President Illueca will include representatives of the country's different political sectors on his cabinet. Some of the present ministers will be ratified in their positions.

Along with the resignation presented by 5 of the 12 ministers of state, directors of autonomous and semi-autonomous institutions have also resigned, including Ricardo Paredes, the director of the price regulation office.

Hoffman's Resignation Letter

PA141448 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 14 Feb 84 p A-1

[Resignation letter sent by Panamanian Commerce and Industries Minister Carlos Hoffman to President Jorge Illueca; dated 13 February]

[Text] Mr President: I hereby present my formal and irrevocable resignation from the post of minister of commerce and industries, an office which was kindly awarded to me by Ricardo de la Espriella.

Dr Carlos Hoffman

Minister of Commerce and Industries

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES ASSESS POLITICAL CHANGES

Third Force's Paredes

PA141535 Panama City Radio Exitosa in Spanish 1125 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Luis Estribi interview with General Ruben Dario Paredes, retired, presidential candidate of the Third Force, composed of "independent sectors" and the Popular Nationalist Party, PNP, in the studio -- live]

[Excerpts] [Estribi] General, first of all, good morning from La Exitosa and Mr Icaza, the president of this station. What did you have to do with the resignation of President Ricardo de la Espriella?

[Paredes] Good morning, Estribi, and to all the Panamanian people who are listening. Good morning to all. It is simply a mere coincidence that yesterday's events came after the statement I made on Saturday on my nomination as a candidate for the presidency of the republic. I had nothing to do with the decision made by former President de la Espriella.

[Estribi] Nevertheless, I have a paragraph here from your speech in which you make charges that in my opinion are very serious, very grave. For example, when you said in Costa Rica -- I remember that I accompanied you on that trip, General, and I had the honor of broadcasting your comments to the world -- that it was indispensable for the foreign powers to get their hands out of Central America, and that particularly Fidel Castro and the USSR should stop the flow of arms that was causing the destabilization of the region, that statement caused a lot of political ill-feeling here, particularly among certain factions of the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] and the leftist in general -- that is, members of the Peoples Party, etc.

Later, we learned of the famous letter from Fidel, in which the bearded one said that he was indignant about your statement and that you would bring down Torrijism with statements of that kind.

These things are very suggestive, since they give the impression that there are links between Fidelism and Torrijism and because, as you said, Ricardo de la Espriella was very docile in the face of the bearded one's reprimand and accepted it -- I will read the paragraph. The president answered the letter and the content of it [the answer] was never revealed, which demonstrated that the president was submissively accepting Fidel Castro's reprimand. Could you comment, General?

[Paredes] Yes, of course, Estribi. We made the comment in Costa Rica essentially to help to stop Cuban expansionism. On the same day that I arrived in Costa Rica -- and it is true that you accompanied me, along with a group of other Panamanian gentlemen -- there was an act of terrorism in which two people were self-mutilated by a heavy charge of explosives. One of those who was injured made a statement about where he came from and it was learned that his attempt originated in Nicaragua, but its umbilical cord was tied to Havana, Cuba.

Here in Panama, which is our primary interest -- and we do not mean by this that we are not also concerned about what is happening in the area -- here in Panama we have to take action, and for the past 1 and 1/2 years I have been working in that direction to see that we were not affected by that expansionism.

Panama's relations with Cuba have been relatively good, but in the period in which I was commander of the Armed Forces, we did have some unofficial brushes with the Cuban regime, because, in our opinion, the Cubans wished to interfere in the behavior, standards, and traditions of the Panamanian people.

When I made the statement in Costa Rica, Mr Castro reacted immediately and sent a very harsh letter to then President De la Espriella. We all read the letter in my residence in Las Cumbres. Given the fact that it was sent from one president to another, the tone of the letter was harsh. The president then warned me: Take it easy. I have received a harsh letter. Practice serenity. We read it, and it was indeed harsh, but I never read the answer. However, I am sure that an answer was sent. Of course, the letter was addressed to him, and he answered Castro.

[Estribi] General, how then did you reach your conclusions, if you did not know the contents of the answer to the letter?

[Paredes] As I said on Saturday, I suppose -- based on De La Espriella's attitude at the time, the fact that he did not want to show me the content of the letter -- I suppose that it probably contained an apology, a cordial message. In view of his actions, I do not feel that De la Espriella expressed solidarity with the ideas and stance of Commander Paredes. On the contrary, he tried to calm me down and, in view of the weakness of this response, I believe that this is why he did not want me to see his reply before he sent it. I understood this, and I was respectful toward him, because I always showed respect for De la Espriella, right to the end.

[Estribi] Another statement in your speech that really caught my attention, General, is your comment that reads as follows: This entire situation led me to realize that the noble purposes of the candidacy were beginning to be distorted because of the excessive ambition of the executive -- you said -- which was initially revealed by the unsuccessful parliamentary attempts to amend the Electoral Law. I interpret the executive to mean Mr De la Espriella.

[Paredes] That is right. Before answering, I would like to address all the people, and within the people, the Defense Forces. I believe that at this time, we must maintain a sense of balance, great prudence, a great sense of civic duty, and a great deal of Christianity, each with the individual sense of security that we need, while living as we usually do and continuing to seek a democratic solution.

It is a very healthy sign that the first message from President Illueca should have been that the calendar established for the elections will not be changed. The people need that event to express their wishes.

With regard to the Defense Forces, I recommend to all of them, particularly the officers, NCO's, enlisted men, and the commander himself that they show great prudence, great care, a great deal of control and primarily, and I emphasize this, that they do not continue to fight against the people's reality. The people want and deserve a change. They should not oppose this.

Of course, that change, which is the transition of which we have spoken so much, should take place with tranquillity and the armed forces themselves should not feel at all threatened when the change, the transfer, finally does take place. No armed forces in the world -- and Panama is no exception -- should feel dangerously threatened by any force that emerges as the new government. The members of the armed forces should feel certain that their promotion structure is untouchable, as is the case with other professions, including those of doctors, nurses, teachers, and educators in general.

To address your question about President de la Espriella directly, I wish to say to him that, wherever he may be, with his distinguished wife... [Estribi interrupts]

[Estribi] He is at home, General. I called his secretary yesterday and she told me that the president was resting in his private rooms; that he was somewhat tired, but that he was serene and calm and awaiting the verdict of history; and that he did not plan to flee or anything of the kind. I offered him the Exitosa Network for whatever use he wished, even to defend himself from any attack that might be directed against him now that he has fallen.

[Paredes] Wherever he may be, he should be calm -- I know that he cannot be totally calm, given that he was the president of the republic -- and he should try to be closer to his wife and his children and to look at life from a lofty position. These things happen to men, particularly to men who are administering great power.

I noticed that the president was acting as if he were on a political campaign. He has been a great deal more active in the past few months than he was, let us say, a year ago. Finally, I had no more doubts when there were attempts within the Legislation Council to amend the Electoral Law. You will realize that it was imprudent to try to amend the law when such a short time remains before the elections. It is like trying to change the rules of a game that is already in the fifth or sixth inning.

[Estribi] General, some of my colleagues in Colombia and Venezuela called to ask me some questions yesterday. It would seem that their first concern is the reasons for De la Espriella's resignation.

I gave them my opinion, which is not necessarily shared by all the Panamanian people, that De la Espriella had become too involved in politics. The second question is this: What will become of the polarization that existed up to yesterday between the people who support Arnulfo Arias and those who support Nicolas Ardito Barletta?

[Paredes] I believe, Estribi, that yesterday's events sealed the government's defeat from this point onward. There is no doubt that the government is going to lose the elections, with Barletta or whomever else it nominates.

However, we have also been able to note, with our modest experience, that within the change that the people want and will obtain, they do not see the traditional opposition, which is gathered around Dr Arias, as an option; that is, as the change that the people want. This is simply because the people do not want violence. They do not want to lose their tranquillity, and they want a change with the proper prudence, with a transition, an evolution toward the rectification of errors.

[Estribi] General, you carried out a veritable revolution here 1 year and 8 months ago, more or less, when former President Aristides Royo got a sudden pain in his throat. You called for the resignation of all top-ranking government officials, ministers, directors of autonomous institutions, and even ambassadors. At the time, you even felt it was necessary to go to the extreme of closing down the newspapers. Once they were closed, why was it necessary to go to the extreme of attacking an opposition paper like LA PRENSA, which brought more ill-feeling than good to both the public and the government?

[Paredes] Look, at the time of the change of President Aristides Royo, which was made necessary by the circumstances, you could see that the people's reaction was mainly one of relief. I am not going to use the term rejoicing, but there was acceptance; there was relief. The people breathed a sigh of relief. We all continued to live in the tranquillity that we wished to maintain with whatever effort was necessary. That is not the case with the change today. The change today has left the people perplexed. In addition, to be honest, we must say that these are two different men. The two of them do not have the same presidential quality. They are not the same. In addition, circumstances determined the situation. The Royo change was necessary, and I would say that some 90 or 95 percent of the subsequent measures were accepted and approved by the people.

Where the newspaper LA PRENSA was concerned, we proceeded to close it, also in search of the needed tranquillity. We are responsible for that. However, it was closed for only 4 days.

[Estribi] General, I see that you are removed from the Arnulfism of Arcoiris [name of Arnulfo Arias' farm]. However, I don't see you as any closer to the other side. In your speech on Saturday you said: The maneuvers against me have continued, referring to the crumbling of your candidacy within the official sector. With whom would you share the government, General?

[Paredes] What happened yesterday is the climax of something that began 5 months ago. The sudden departure of President de la Espriella did not begin yesterday. It began 5 months ago, on 6 September, to be exact, when I renounced a powerful candidacy. Many political events have taken place since then. They have not found -- I don't want to boast, I have always tried to be a simple man -- a way to fill the political vacuum produced by my decision, and yesterday there was a collapse because of this situation. This is why they are going to lose with their current candidate, Dr Barletta.

[Estribi] Then, do you feel closer to the Arnulfist opposition than to the government? Where do you stand?

[Paredes] I stand by and for the people. I am on neither side. There are two sides, practically. The people are in the middle, and that is where I am in our struggle to help the people.

I have said the maneuvers are continuing. I resigned because they wanted to tie me down to a vehicle of continuation, this is true. They wanted a candidate who would maintain the status quo. The criminals in the Social Security case are on the streets; there is no justice. The people are disappointed because no justice or laws are implemented. The official sector wanted a shackled candidate.

What I am saying is very serious. Again I ask the armed forces: Don't fight reality. In 1968 the coup was necessary. The situation had made it evident that a coup was the wise thing to do. But 16 years later, the situation favors a return to democracy.

The armed forces -- including the commander and all the men -- must not try to prevent this return, because it could be dangerous. They are trying to find a candidate who will be soft, easy-going, and easy to handle, who would understand that the armed forces should continue codirecting the country. This is bad. This is what is leading to this type of event that is not pleasant, that the people do not like. The people are quiet, but I am sure they reject what happened yesterday. There is an attitude of tolerance because we are a quiet people, but the citizens don't want to see this type of event, which produces stomachaches in some and sadness in others.

In civilized modern life, the armed forces cannot turn their backs on the big problems faced by societies, and Panama is no exception. We, as a civilized people and country moving forward, must see that the armed forces have to understand the problem, and the logical and correct way of being informed is for the armed forces to have a minister in the cabinet, beginning with the next government. This minister does not necessarily have to be a military man, but a person chosen by the president or the government to represent the armed forces in that cabinet. In this way the armed forces would be informed about the problems that affect a country daily.

[Estribi] General, if they asked you again to accept the candidacy of the official sector because of the crisis provoked by the new candidacy, what would you say? Would you accept the challenge, or would you remain quietly in the beautiful and dignified plains of civility, as you said Saturday?

[Paredes] Reaccepting the candidacy of the official sector would be very difficult. I am not saying that it can't happen, but it would be very difficult, especially if the principles of that candidacy are not in line with the principles established in the pact we signed with the PNP. And there is also the moral commitment we have with the Third Force -- the people. If the principles and objectives do not coincide to benefit the fatherland, then I, of course, would reject any call from the official sector.

[Estribi] I have heard you speak of Torrijists and Torrijeros [contemptuous term for self-styled Torrijists].

[Paredes] The Torrijeros are those who were somewhat close to Torrijos and now use his name and memory to secure their goals, whether of an ideological or business nature. Others use his name to defend the current situation of a shared government, or two-headed government to put it more clearly. These are also Torrijeros.

Those who own and sell staple products are also owners of parties.

They have again become the political class that is trying to seek power. They were an element justifying the 1968 coup. There was a business class, a class with money that was known as an oligarchy. They controlled not only their businesses but also the country's politics. They gave priority attention to their interests, and the needs of the people were secondary. This class is about to regain political leadership in the country under the current circumstances, I want to stress: I am not against the business sector, capital, or wealth. We need these gentlemen, I am a friend of many of them. Businesses are needed. We have to generate jobs, wealth. The economy has to produce for the good of everybody.

The bad thing, the irregular thing, would be to have a government that would represent only the businessmen. Then the needs of the people, not only the interests but the needs, would be secondary. So the Torrijeros are those who are promoting a return to the situation that existed prior to 1968.

I ask: Who are the real friends of Omar [Torrijos], and who are looking at things from a position of fantasy? Who has a weak standing? He who produces a change to consolidate a situation, or he who shouts while opening the way to a return to a past that resulted in the decomposition of society, when the Armed Forces had to carry out a coup. Today those who shout are pushing for a return of the same faces, the same names, with only a few exceptions but those exceptions are full of hatred. How can people fail to see this?

We are between these two groups, two groups that are the same thing. We are in the middle to prevent a confrontation and the violence that is taking place elsewhere. We are the alternative, a peaceful change, a guiding change, a humanistic, serious, firm, responsible, honorable, and dignified change, not cheap politics.

[Estribi] When you conducted the 1968 coup, the justificiation was that Dr Arnulfo Arias did not respect the National Guard roster, had sent Torrijos to El Salvador, shifted either Boris or Noriega elsewhere, and was going to bring someone from South America, from Chile, I don't know from where, to be the National Guard commander. Now, let's say that Arnulfo Arias, allied with the Christian Democratic Party, again wins many votes and assumes power, beginning again to dismiss colonels and dismantle the National Guard. Would you, a retired general, favor another coup against Dr Arnulfo Arias?

[Paredes] I don't think Dr Arias would make that same mistake again. But if he did, he would be provoking another coup because, I repeat: The Armed Forces have to be respected so that, in reciprocity, they will turn over leadership if the fatherland to whomever the people elect on 6 May.

Something that had never been sensed in Panama, not even during the first years of the Torrijos government, is now being sensed. There is a feeling of fear among the Panamanians, and we don't like that. I hope President Illueca puts an end to the persecution that is taking place in this country.

[Estribi] The people would like to know about your personal relationship with Noriega, Paredes, Justine, and other top National Guard leaders.

[Paredes] I am Paredes.

[Estribi] I beg your pardon, Noriega, Diaz Herrera, Justine, etc. Do you still have good ties with the mid-level officers, majors, sergeants, etc?

[Paredes] Communication with the top leaders is very scarce. When a commander leaves, he should step down and leave the way clear for the new commander, who has to do his work, as I did mine. Let's hope he is successful and acts intelligently. It is inevitable that military men -- addressing the commander and the chief of staff -- have to continue with some kind of meddling in this final political phase of elections-related adjustments, but this meddling must end on 6 May. If it goes any further, the armed forces would be risking confrontations that no one wants, beginning with the members of the institution.

In view of the latest event, I recommend the citizens practice much calm, patience, and Christianity. To the armed forces and to President Jorge Illueca, I recommend much self-control, equilibrium, patience, and moderation. We must continue on the elections path. There is no other path. Let the people choose the fatherland's destiny.

PRD's Barletta

PA141728 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1608 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Demetrio Olacirequi report from Los Santos Province with Nicolas Ardito Barletta, presidential candidate of the Democratic Nationalist Union; live, monitored in progress]

[Text] ...for this station about the significance of the change in the presidency of the republic, a post which is currently held by Jorge Illueca. According to Nicolas Ardito Barletta, the most important thing at this moment is to hold elections on 6 May.

[Begin recording] [Ardito Barletta] We must support President Illueca's administration so that our country can continue handling national affairs in the most competent manner. Our country lies above and before anything else, and at this point the country demands an effective government and elections that will make it possible to bring about an orderly transfer of power so that genuine representatives of the people can begin ruling our country for the next 5-year period.

[Unidentified reporter] Could you tell us anything about the government platform you plan to implement if you become president?

[Ardito Barletta] From the consultations conducted with various sectors of our people all over the country, we are learning that our people want three things: first, continuance of social work, that is, they want more jobs created, inexpensive housing, support for the Panamanian family, and, for the young, health and education to enable our people to develop their potential. Second, to achieve all this our people want more jobs created. To do this we must set the national economy in motion. We must encourage and provide incentives for producers, especially in this agricultural zone. We must provide incentives for our agricultural and livestock producers so that their profitable production can increase, because the problem of producing and creating jobs will be solved only through the efforts of all producers. With clear rules and consistent economic policies we will again set our economy in motion. Third, our people are demanding an efficient, responsible, and honest public administration, a public administration that will capably handle the people's money, which must revert to our people in the form of suitable services and policies.

It is on this basis of what our people are demanding in these three areas that we have begun drafting our program. We will not draft our program from the isolation of an office. We will draft it after conducting consultations with our people in the next few months during the political campaign. [end recording]

This was Ardito Barletta's statement upon arriving in Los Santos Province to launch his political campaign for the Presidency of the Republic. In addition to the mass rally currently underway here in Las Tablas, the unity candidate and the high-ranking Democratic Revolution Party [PRD] leadership will hold a minicongress with PRD members in Los Santos Province. A second minicongress will be held this afternoon in Herrera Province. These minicongresses are in preparation for the great PRD national congress, at which Ardito Barletta's nomination is expected.

LA PRENSA ANALYZES PRESIDENTIAL RESIGNATION

PA142000 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 14 Feb 84 p 1 A

[Editorial: "Fear of the Elections"]

[Text] Ricardo de la Espriella, who became president through a decision of Ruben Dario Paredes, is no longer president, by the will of Manuel Antonio Noriega. No one seems too surprised by this development. While in any civilized country differences between the chief of the Armed Forces and the president of the republic necessarily imply the resignation of the former, in Panama these differences are always resolved with the "resignation" of the latter.

One and one half years ago, a presidential "resignation" enabled Ricardo de la Espriella to become president, in the same manner that today his resignation gives Jorge Illueca the chance to briefly occupy the much-coveted Palace of the Herons. The brevity of De la Espriella's letter of resignation now serves the same purpose as the deliberately ridiculous pretext of a throat problem to which Royo resorted, so that no one could harbor the slightest doubt about the force majeure that had determined his resignation.

Alleged abidance by the Constitution with regard to the presidential seccession deceives no one, just as it deceived no one 18 months ago. The truth then, as now, is that the precarious institutionality of the Republic has been disrupted by a coup, the consequences of which are as dangerous as they are unpredictable.

Few in this country will regret the absence of a president whose mandate had its origins in the garrisons, just like that of his predecessor. Neither is there any reason to expect that whoever succeeds him will be able to or want to break the umbilical cord that inextricably links the Presidency and the garrisons. Except for certain qualitative differences, little does it matter if a president obliged to docilely submit to the whims of the military is replaced by another president similarly subordinated to the will expressed in the garrisons. The truly worrisome aspect is that this change has taken place merely 3 months before the country's first presidential elections in 16 years.

There is no doubt that high-ranking military men openly endorse the candidacy of Nicolas Ardito Barletta, who markedly exhibits the qualities which General Noriega once described as those which the next president should have. That candidacy -- conceived, proclaimed, and supported in the garrisons -- cannot prosper without the unrestricted and illegal support of all of the state's resources. De la Espriella was apparently unwilling to permit this, at least in the manner and scope demanded of him.

Even more ominous is the fact that the "resignation" came about only a few hours after the definitive consolidation of the opposition alliance endorsing Dr Arnulfo Arias' candidacy and making him the sure winner of the next elections. In view of this disturbing prospect for those who have usurped public power for so many years, it is not surprising that the president was forced to resign so he could be replaced by someone more amenable to the demands of an official candidacy that is destined to fail unless it has the state's power and budget to compensate for its obvious lack of popularity.

The military is afraid of an election which it already knows it will lose. This being the case, desperation will gradually force them to go increasingly further. As the alleged guarantors of the country's stability, they are solely responsible for the institutional uncertainty that will finally destroy this stability. Today a president is changed. Should this not be enough, tomorrow the elections will be suspended or its results forged. If neither is possible, another coup will be staged, thus putting an end to the peace which those who attempt the most against it claim to want to preserve so much. By then it will be too late for everyone, including the military who, like its Central American counterparts, will also suffer the consequences of the violence unleashed by constant mockery of the institutions, the law, and the people's will.

MATUTINO EDITORIAL PRAISES PRESIDENT ILLUECA

PA142314 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 14 Feb 84 p 4

[Editorial: "The Illueca Government's Priorities"]

[Excerpts] President Jorge Illueca has stated, with characteristic frankness and without going into wordy speeches, that his administration's first priority will be to ensure harmonious, free and honest elections on 6 May.

President Illueca stressed that the Government has a sacred commitment to secure the culmination of the democratization process, permitting the Panamanian people to choose their own authorities and to elect, through ballots, the men who will guide the country's destiny.

The very way in which President Illueca assumed office is an indication that Panama is on its way to democracy.

President Illueca's virtues and humility are admired both here and abroad. In his first official statement he declared that he will follow in the footsteps of the country's forefathers: Tomas Herrera, Justo Arosemena, Belisario Porras, and Omar Torrijos. This exalts the president's image and reflects well on his great humanistic qualities.

No one can doubt that Panama will proceed on its democratic path domestically, and will pursue its independent and neutral policy toward area problems and worldwide conflicts. Through President Illueca, Panama has reaffirmed that it will follow a harmonious path in international relations and will respect commitments and joint ventures entered into with other governments, including the Contadora Group, in which it shares membership with Mexico, Colombia, and Venezuela.

Panamanians can feel secure, because there is continuity in the National Government's actions. Constitutional order, the de jure regime, respect for human rights and equal opportunities will be maintained.

President Illueca has declared that the fatherland will be his political altar. We Panamanians can rest assured that President Illueca -- with his commitment to holding orderly and free civic elections on 6 May -- will go down in history with honor and glory.

GEN NORIEGA ON TIES WITH COLOMBIAN MILITARY

PA140452 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 12 Feb 84 p 1-B

[Article by Eva Montilla de Kinkead]

[Excerpt] Not long ago, my university professor Indalecio Rodriguez and I had the opportunity to interview General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

This was an interesting experience that gave us the opportunity to get to know the officer better.

The interview was held during a break in the commander's tour of Colombia. We took advantage of the opportunity to learn about this tour and other topics. Gen Noriega told us that his visit to Colombia was being made in response to an invitation issued by the Colombian Armed Forces, then under General Landazabal, with President Belisario Betancur's approval. This invitation was later reiterated by General Gustavo Matamoros following Gen Landazabal's retirement.

Gen Noriega said that during his meeting with Gen Matamoros he discussed the military assistance given by Colombia to Panama through its scholarship program. Many officers in the Panama Defense Forces have graduated from various Colombian schools. The possibility of increasing of number of scholarships and the number of cadets admitted was discussed during the meeting. The discussion also covered the possibility of including other services that the Colombian Army has incorporated into its program. This includes specialists in skilled tasks, such as plumbing, baking, and other services available to Panamanian personnel.

Commenting on relations between the two military organizations, the commander said: "We can say without fear of error that our relations and ties with the Republic of Colombia and with its highest expression, the Armed Forces, are at their peak."

During his tour, Gen Noreiga mentioned the democratic doctrine, so we asked him about its scope. He replied: "The concept of democratic democracy is specified within the basic principles of the American Continent's Armed Forces. They all have the same doctrine, dating from our independence from Spain and based on our Bolivarian roots, the original struggles carried out to achieve independence itself, and the peoples' honest participation in their armed forces."

"Commenting on the democratic doctrine," he said: "We want to foster an image of an Army that is an armed group serving its people."

When we sought to learn more about our Defense Forces and their members, the subject of our interview, with pride reflected in his gaze, said: "From the nationalist Panamanian viewpoint, our Defense Forces, which share the people's roots and origins, have the duty of keeping in touch with the people and learning about their problems." He added: "We might say that violence is incited and increased when the armed forces, the armies, are alienated from the people."

In summing up the results of the visit to the fraternal country of Colombia, Gen Noriega said: "I believe that it has been totally positive, because we have arrived at a moment of military change in which the institution (Colombian Armed Forces) feels that men are merely transitional, while the spirit of cooperation, the doctrine and the basics are consistent and fluid. These never stop." He added: "The bases and strategic and geopolitical concepts of the Colombian Armed Forces, in considering the invitation, not extended to me, since I am only one commander in the history of the institution, but to the institution itself. [sentence as published] It is the reaffirmation of the fact that we are united by powerful factors, such as the fact that we share a border and that we were once part of Greater Colombia."

Another result of the visit, Noriega said, is "the open conversation with President Belisario Betancur, who expressed his great affection and understanding and his memory of the continuous cooperation that the Government of the Republic of Panama and the men of the Panama Armed Forces have extended toward his various governmental efforts to achieve peace in the region and to promote his country's internal causes."

Referring to the topic of Central America, the commander of our armed institution said that "Central America is now participating in a drama with phantasmagoric and Dantesque characters. It is as if we were reading about the Apocalypse were riding over the Central American Isthmus." With great concern, Gen Noriega said that "governments must see it this way. People who lead other people and who have responsibilities to nations must stop for a moment and realize that this violence is not located at a single point, but is rather a mathematical charge [carga matematica] of concentric circles that can expand to unforeseeable points."

"Los Lanceros School [in Colombia] has been in existence for almost 20 years. It has been professionalized and is now an academic center of great prestige. We have a school we called Pana-Jungla that was established 5 years ago. We are copying positive examples from schools like Los Lanceros in order to increase our men's professionalism and to imitate the soldiers of other countries," he said. "International courses are already being given," he said, "to allow soldiers from other countries to study in Panama, which has strips of jungle." Gen Noriega also said that several Panamanian officers are graduates of Los Lanceros School. Among them, he mentioned Lieutenant Colonel Garibaldo and Major Correa.

MIDE OFFICIALS LISTED; OBJECTIVES DEFINED

PA122222 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 12 Feb 84 pp 8-9

[Paid advertisement; uppercase as published]

[Text] THE DEMOCRATIC INDEPENDENT MOVEMENT [Movimiento Democratico Independiente -- MIDE]

The MIDE was created on 9 February at the Holiday Inn. A board of directors and several commissions were appointed and objectives were discussed

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Samuel Lewis Galindo
Vice President	Aquilino de la Guardia Jr
Secretary	Gary Martin
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POLITICAL COORDINATION COMMISSION

Eduardo Morgan Jr
Alfredo Arias L.
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ORGANIZERS

Samuel Lewis Galindo, Octavio Guerra, Benjamin Boyd, Ramon Garcia A., Ricardo Aleman, Americo Quintero, Alonso Roy, Ligia A. de Allara, Germinal Sarasqueta Jr, Nestor de Ycaza, Dagoberto "Yin" Carrizo, Enrique Jimenez III, Alejandro Duque Jr, Carlos Minott, Erasmo Arias M., Rafael Barcenas, Gary Martin, Alfredo Arias L., Simon Tejeira, Aquilino de la Guardia Jr, Eduardo Morgan Jr, Enrique Villegas, Gabriel de la Guardia, Rodrigo Correa, Enrique Aleman, Ricardo Gago, Roberto Pascual, and Roger Bares.

OBJECTIVES OF THE DEMOCRATIC INDEPENDENT MOVEMENT (MIDE)

1. To gather members of our society -- making no distinction as to class, race, or religion -- who are not currently active members of any political parties but whose political leanings involve high democratic principles.

2. To bolster the country's democratic system and all of its institutions, attaining an effective and real separation among the branches of government.

3. To safeguard social peace and the human rights of all of our fellow citizens.

4. To involve and grant opportunities to our youth, enabling them to participate actively in the nation's activities.

5. To strengthen private enterprise and democratic trade unionism as basic pillars of the country's economic and social development.

6. To seek a clear definition of the State's goals and consistency in the policies that are adopted to achieve these goals.

7. To inject morality into the electoral campaign, so that it will constitute an example of civic spirit and great political maturity and culture.

BELIZE

PRIME MINISTER PRICE TO PREPARE BUDGET PROPOSAL

FL140303 Belize City Domestic Service in English 0100 GMT 13 Feb 84

[Text] It was announced today from the prime minister's office that the Prime Minister Mr George Price, and his cabinet will be meeting (?amid) sessions this week to prepare the government's budget for the next financial year, which begins on April 1st. Shortly after the budget exercise, the prime minister as minister of finance will be taking his budget proposal to the House of Representatives for debate.

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT PROVIDES HEALTH GRANT

FL140309 Belize City Domestic Service in English 0100 GMT 13 Feb 84

[Excerpt] The Government of Canada, with the Canadian Health Mission to Belize, has provided a grant of $150,000 to various projects in Belize. The Ministry of Health, Housing, and Cooperatives has become the beneficiary of $83,000. One of the objectives of this project is to further reduce infant mortality and the prevalence of disease in the (Cairo) district.

EL SALVADOR

NEW ELECTORAL LAW TAKES EFFECT 13 FEBRUARY

PA150034 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 14 Feb 84 pp 3, 19

[Text] The new electoral law to regulate the presidential elections that will be held throughout the country on 25 March became effective yesterday. The departmental electoral boards will be composed of a representative from each party or participating coalition. These boards will therefore contain six members, rather than three, as in the past.

It was learned that the Central Electoral Council is already studying and debating the proposals on the composition of the 14 departmental electoral boards presented by the Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA; the Christian Democratic Party, PDC; the National Conciliation Party, PCN; the Democratic Action party, AD; the Salvadoran Popular Party, PPS; and the Salvadoran Authentic Institutional Party, PAISA. The most important duties of the departmental electoral boards include swearing in the municipal electoral boards and supervising both the municipal electoral boards and ballot receiving boards to ensure that they meet their obligations.

On the day of the elections, the departmental electoral boards will resolve any differences resulting from errors that have not already been dealt with at the municipal electoral board level. The departmental electoral boards will immediately inform the Central Electoral Council of any public disturbances that may occur during the elections and will advise of insufficient protection for properly implementing the elections. The electoral law specifies that the departmental and municipal electoral boards and the ballot receiving boards must all be appointed within the initial 8 days of March.

CAPTAIN AVILA STILL HELD AFTER SERVING SENTENCE

PA142007 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 13 Feb 84 p 10

[Text] The Supreme Court has revoked the order issued by Magistrate Nelson Garcia freeing Captain Ernesto Avila. Capt Avila was arrested on 18 December, accused of violating the military code. His relatives had appealed to the Supreme Court, which appointed Nelson Garcia to the case. Judge Garcia decreed that Capt Avila's arrest was legal, and the court upheld the judge's decision.

After Captain Avila had served his 30-day sentence, he was still being held. His relatives appealed to the court, which again appointed Judge Garcia to the case. Judge Garcia ordered Capt Avila's release, but the court overruled the judge's decision and ordered that he remain under arrest.

According to Capt Avila's family, this decision is unconstitutional, because he has already served his 30-day sentence but is still being held. They claim that the officer is being tried twice for the same offense.

It was reported that Capt Avila's lawyers may take the case to the Penal Court in San Salvador before accusing the Supreme Court of unconstitutional procedure.

MONTERROSA ON CIVIC AID TO PEASANT FAMILIES

PA141929 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Feb 84

[Text] [In progress] ... the town of Jucuapa to dismantle the camps known as Las Marias and Ocotedulce located southwest of Jucuapa in Usulutan Department. YSU went there and, at El Volcancillo Hill, located in that same sector, interviewed Colonel Domingo Monterrosa, who was also participating in this operation, which is part of the so-called "Welfare for Usulutan" operation. He spoke with us today about the organization of the guerrillas in the country, especially in this area:

[Begin Monterrosa recording] In the southern area [words indistinct] the area of San Agustin close to the Lempa River, north of San Miguel, the northern area of Morazan, and the northern area of La Union, in each of these areas they have several hundred men. And in each of them are camps where they are training their [word indistinct], and they have good communications. Their are better than ours. (?They are taking up positions) during the night both (?on foot) and in vehicles, as was the case in [words indistinct]. They meet at places over which we have little control, and at night they group to attack their objective. [end recording]

Col Monterrosa also referred to guerrilla activity. He said that in the last few days the guerrillas have been recruiting new members to swell the FMLN ranks.

[Begin recording] [Monterrosa] They are now recruiting many members. They give a rifle to every new recruit almost the same day that he is recruited. In the beginning, at least, these new recruits do not like the guerrillas. Whenever we have located them and sent planes to bomb them, these recruits have run away.

[Unidentified reporter] A few days ago you said that you did not have government support. You also told the people who are helping the guerrillas that you did not want to fight. Could you please explain those remarks?

[Monterrosa] Well, maybe I exaggerated a little. What I said is that I am taking advantage of the CONARA [National Commission for the Reconstruction of Affected Areas]. They are going to towns and delivering supplies. The truth is that I believe that we, as members of the Armed Forces, should deliver some sort of message, because we are the ones who are doing the fighting. We should make the people aware that this aid is reaching them through the Armed Forces, so that we can continue to receive their support.

For example, we go to some areas to fight to rid it of subversives. The people are tired of the guerrillas so they are glad to be rid of them. These people give us a warm welcome. Two days later, however, the rebels are back again [words indistinct], and I do not want the people to have this image of us. I do not want them to have the image only that we delivered them from the guerrillas, but that we are also bringing a message of peace sometimes, and more than that to help them with their vital needs. For example, these people have many stomach ailments. They have no medical centers or doctors to attend them. What better opportunity could we have? I was telling one of your colleagues that this was a day that these people will always remember. About 15,000 of them gathered at the La Reina town hall, also at San Gerardo and San Luis. This was the first time that they had ever received such aid. Unfortunately, the Health Ministry, which should be engaged in these tasks, is not coordinating with us. When we get to these places where there is no government program we try to help the people, but this is the ministry's duty. CONARA has promised to give us some medical supplies, because we had to give these people the medicine we had for the troops.

There were many cases of parents who brought their children, sick with fever, cough, and who could not sleep at night, and we really felt bound to give them what little we had. I do believe that CONARA will help us and the other commanders because the people really need help badly. Not only do they need help, they deserve it.

When I tell the people that we do not want to fight, what we are trying to tell them is that we do not want to fight among ourselves. We should have a better understanding among ourselves. The people should be able to resume normal lives. I used them as an example. I told them that they are hardworking people. A hardworking man is responsible and honest. He is responsible because he is working to feed his children. I made that comparison so that they would realize that the guerrillas are not working. They go around fighting, going from here to there, attacking farms. These are not responsible people. I tried to convince the people that they are honest and can be trusted. Our peasants have the virtue of sincerity. [end recording]

GUATEMALA

INTERIOR MINISTER REJECTS CALL FOR RESIGNATION

PA141942 Guatemala City DIARIO EL GRAFICO in Spanish 11 Feb 84 p 8

[Excerpt] Lopez Sandoval has responded to the Christian Democrats. The interior minister will not resign merely because a political party has asked him to, Gustavo Adolfo Lopez Sandoval said yesterday, referring to a communique issued by the Christian Democrats. The interior minister said that he does not know what power a party such as the Christian Democrats could have to request resignations, since his remaining in his post is a matter that concerns the head of state exclusively. Lopez Sandoval said that an attitude such as that of the Christian Democrats only plays into the hands of the subversives and comes about, he added, just when the government is doing everything possible and taking all the necessary steps for the country to return to constitutionality.

STATION REPORTS GROWING VIOLENCE IN FEBRUARY

PA142029 Guatemala City Radio Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 13 Feb 84

[Excerpts] The growing violence in the country is being acutely and persistently reflected by the news media and is keeping citizens in a state of permanent anxiety. Police have reported the following crimes for the month of February alone: home thefts, 22; persons detained for crimes committed, 490; personal exhibition writs, 11; hold-ups, 12; wounds by gunfire, 12; and murders, 34. There are no figures available on kidnappings.

While Electoral Tribunal President Arturo Herbruger has said that he believes that the electoral process is endangered by violence, Colonel Rodolfo Lobo Zamora, chief of the Army General Staff, on the same day told the press that violence had decreased.

In the past 48 hours, about 12 persons have been murdered in Guatemala City and the country's interior. All the victims had been kidnapped and later murdered. Official figures, however, do not seem to coincide with facts as reported by the press. So far nothing has been learned of the whereabouts of Sergio Aldana Galvani, secretary general of the PRENSA LIBRE newspaper union. Galvani was kidnapped yesterday by several armed men who intercepted him on 18th Street between 11th and 12th Avenues, Zone 1. Aldana Galvani had been accompanied by other workers. They were going to a course on cooperativism, it was reported.

HONDURAS

FOREIGN SECRETARY DENIES NICARAGUAN ACCUSATIONS

PA141349 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 13 Feb 84 p 3

[Text] Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica has rejected statements by Nicaraguan Charge d'Affaires Javier Avilez Ibarra, who said that the Miskito refugees are virtual prisoners in this country. Paz Barnica said: "It is false that the Honduran Government is opposed to the Miskito refugees' returning to their country. Therefore, what the Nicaraguan charge d'affaires has said is not true, and he has behaved in a manner unbecoming to a diplomat." Honduras has offered every cooperation for the repatriation of refugees if carried out properly and in line with the Contadora Group's efforts, which the Honduran Government supports fully and in good faith, Foreign Secretary Paz Barnica said.

A few weeks ago Nicaragua asked to talk with the authorities in charge and with the National Refugee Commission to allow a mission of nuns from that country to pay an official visit to the Miskito camps to tell them about the amnesty decree and to ask them to return to their country. The Honduran Government conducted the necessary consultations and obtained the opinion of the National Refugee Commission. Following this consultation, Paz Barnica said, he answered the Nicaraguan foreign minister's note, telling him that in order to carry out a voluntary repatriation, necessary measures should be taken and that the UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] was the person to carry out this mission. He said that we were ready at any time to establish the needed conditions between the two governments for the voluntary repatriation of the Miskitos, guaranteeing their personal safety and that of their families, as well as their means of livelihood and respect for their rights in an environment of freedom, without abuses.

According to Paz Barnica, the amnesty decree is well known among the refugees, because the Nicaraguan Government has publicized it constantly through its radio stations, including broadcasts in the Miskitos' own language.

"Honduras has domestic and international agreements in this respect and cannot act hastily in such a delicate matter that could jeopardize the refugees' security," Paz Barnica said. Honduras has commitments with the UNHCR, among which is the voluntary, not obligatory, repatriation of the refugees, without causing them future risks. Therefore, the Nicaraguan charge d'affaires has lied, inasmuch as the Honduran Government has officially suggested the establishment of a serious basis to permit cooperation in this mission. We have said this to the governments of the Contadora Group and to international organizations, the minister said.

NICARAGUA

ORTEGA DISCUSSES RELATIONS WITH U.S., ELECTIONS

PA141648 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0544 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Text] Caracas, 13 Feb (EFE) -- Nicaragua wants an understanding with the United States, Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua, has told Venezuelan newsmen. The Nicaraguan leader, who visited Venezuela recently for the inauguration of the new government of Jaime Lusinchi, made this statement at a forum that was reported by the newspaper EL NACIONAL today.

Ortega said that Nicaragua is experiencing a deep-rooted, popular democratic process, which is based on all the social, political, and economic sectors and seeks to advance in securing real social justice for the large majorities. The junta coordinator noted the existing differences between the Nicaraguan and Cuban revolutionary processes. In Nicaragua the economic aspect continues to have a decisive bearing on production, he said, and, consequently, all the productive branches of private enterprises are being stimulated.

Regarding the political aspect, he noted that circumstances, "principally the conduct of the U.S. Government," have forced the Nicaraguan Government to adopt certain restrictions. The Sandinist leader referred to the "Kissinger report," noting that some principles that have been incorporated are obvious and can no longer be denied by the United States. "That is the only thing new about that report."

Ortega said that the report completely ignores the destabilization being carried out by Washington through its covert activities. He recalled that Nicaragua proposed to the United States the demilitarization of Central America, the departure of its military advisers, and the freezing of the arms supply. In response, Ortega said, Washington has increased its military escalation in the area.

Referring to the electoral process in his country, the Sandinist commander noted that counterrevolutionary leaders who have received support from foreign powers to attack Nicaragua cannot participate in the process. He indicated that Eden Pastora, specifically, has received support from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and definitely cannot participate in the elections.

If Sandinism loses the elections, it will turn over power: "If the people want a conservative government, they will have a conservative government," Ortega declared.

Returning to the topic of military agreements with Cuba and the Soviet Union, the Sandinist commander said that he went to the United States, "which was the first country that we asked for aid, and it offered us canteens, gunbelts, and some military clothing." Ortega affirmed that the Government Junta is obliged to guarantee the sovereignty and defense of Nicaragua and, to that end "we have found military cooperation in countries of different ideologies."

ORTEGA MEETS WITH GDR'S HONECKER IN MOSCOW

LD150014 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1444 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Text] Moscow, 14 Feb (ADN) -- Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED [Socialist Unity Party of Germany] Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council, met with Daniel Ortega, member of the National Directorate of the Sandinist Front of the National Liberation of Nicaragua (FSLN) and coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, for a cordial and trusting discussion on Tuesday in Moscow.

Daniel Ortega expressed his thanks for the manifold demonstrations of the GDR people's solidarity in the struggle of the new Nicaragua to consolidate the anti-imperialist, democratic achievements and to decisively rebuff the aggressive machinations of U.S. imperialism and the internal counterrevolution. He stressed Nicaragua's intention of continuing to do everything possible in the future to help relax the dangerously aggravated situation in Central America and to solve controversial issues in the interests of the peoples of the region. Nicaragua could rely in this respect on the GDR's support, as well as on that of the other socialist states, all peace-loving forces.

Erich Honecker paid tribute to the consistent and at the same time flexible policy of the FSLN as a valuable contribution to the worldwide struggle against imperialism and war, for peoples' national and social liberation. Erich Honecker stressed that the GDR workers will continue in the future to stand firmly by the side of their Nicaraguan class brothers in implementing the ideals of the great national hero, Augosto Cesar Sandino.

The two statesmen condemned the peace-endangering U.S. imperialist policy of confrontation and arms buildup. The proposals of the Soviet Union and the other countries of the socialist community submitted in Prague and Moscow represent a constructive program for relaxing the international situation, and for promoting disarmament. Particularly in the present tense situation, joint action by all peace-loving forces is particularly important.

Also present at the meeting were SED Central Committee Politburo members Willi Stoph, deputy chairman of the State Council and chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers; Horst Sindermann, deputy chairman of the State Council and president of the People's Chamber; Egon Krenz and Guenter Mittag, SED Central Committee secretaries and members of the State Council; and the GDR ambassador to the USSR, Egon Winkelmann.

Present at the meeting on the Nicaraguan side were Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto and secretary of the FSLN National Directorate Rene Nunez.

GOVERNMENT PROTESTS TO HONDURAS OVER VIOLATIONS

PA141426 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government has protested to Honduras over a number of territorial violations -- by land, air, and sea -- carried out along the country's northern border between 7 and 12 February.

The note adds that a group of 20 Somozist mercenaries from Honduras, armed with Chinese AK rifles and wearing olive green uniforms and protective helmets, made an incursion into Finca Los Cocos, located in (Junquillo), where they threatened and interrogated the local people about Sandinist People's Army strategic positions.

The note says three air incursions, into the community of El Sauce, [name indistinct] Department, in Puerto Sandino, and over Casita Volcano, in Jinotega, occurred on 9 February.

It adds that a four-engine plane flew in from Honduras on 12 February. The aircraft flew over El Cardon Island (?coming from) Corinto, El Viejo Community, Chinandega, Mina El Limon, Malpaisillo, the Palo Grando area, and Somotillo.

That same day a helicopter flew over Punta San Jose, northwest of Puerto Potosi, Chinandega Department. In addition, two Piranha-type speedboats made an incursion into territorial waters in the Punta San Jose area, northwest of Puerto Potosi, withdrawing later toward Honduras.

The protest note asks the Honduran Government to end its policy of permitting and supporting the use of its territory for attacks on Nicaragua, thus contradicting the principles of international law and the Contadora Group's efforts.

RUIZ OPENS CEMA TALKS, DISCUSSES EXPECTED AID

PA150323 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Text] Nicaraguan Planning Minister Commander Henry Ruiz opened the meeting of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, CEMA, yesterday at the Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center. Attending the meeting are CEMA experts, who will remain in Nicaragua for 15 days to study Nicaragua's economic structure and to initiate steps for bilateral cooperation.

At this time, when Nicaragua is experiencing a cash shortage, it is desirable to use the powerful CEMA resources to promote economic development projects [words indistinct] investment portfolio for 1984, Commander Ruiz said.

He also said that Nicaragua is associated with CEMA and that it expects to receive more aid from that organization in the areas of [word indistinct] agricultural disease control through the training of personnel in [words indistinct] textile industry, forestry, and other industrial fields.

COMMANDER REPORTS ON FDN CASUALTIES, DESERTIONS

PA101652 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Feb 84

[Text] During the past 60 days the Sandinist People's Army has killed 200 members of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, FDN, in the northern part of the country.

Guerrilla Commander Alonso Porras, political secretary in the 6th region, reported that 232 counterrevolutionaries have deserted from the FDN ranks, and that a similar number will accept the government's amnesty decree, which guarantees the return of citizens who have been deceived, [word indistinct] and kidnapped by the counterrevolutionary bands.

Porras added that at present counterrevolutionary activities in the northern region are at a low level, and that these groups are now basically sowing terror among the civilian population.

Porras noted that the number of citizens accepting the amnesty decree is increasing each day, and that those who have accepted amnesty are engaged in productive activities, as the majority of them are peasants who were misled or kidnapped by the mercenary bands.

VOICE OF SANDINO CARRIES ARDE REPORTS ON CLASHES

Ambush of Barge

PA110148 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 10 Feb 84

[War Bulletin No 164, issued by the General Command of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces, in "the mountains of Nicaragua," on 9 February]

[Text] The General Command of the ARDE Armed Forces reports to the Nicaraguan people and the free peoples of the world:

Companero Tigre, who commands the Francisco Loy Column of the Saturno Unit, has reported that on 7 February 1984, at 1030 at Desembocadura de Antonio Zapata, in the Punta Gorda area, his column ambushed a barge transporting Sandinist People's Army [EPS] troops, inflicting eight casualties on the enemy. Approximately 30 minutes later a patrol of that (?same) interventionist Army set an ambush for our column, but upon discovering it our forces carried out a deft 15-minute counterambush that left one enemy dead and two wounded.

On 7 February 1984, at 0400, the Wenceslao Aviles Column of the Saturno Unit, under the command of Companero Pajaro Negro, ambushed a light truck transporting members of the repressive state security organization on the road linking (La Velada) with Los Chiles, in Rio San Juan Department. Three of our people's enemies were killed.

On that same day, at 0600, the same column, again commanded by Companero Pajaro Negro, ambushed an interventionist Army platoon in the Buenavista region in Rio San Juan Department. After 25 minutes of combat there were 20 enemy casualties.

We stress the fact that our courageous ARDE fighters are struggling with patriotic and revolutionary zeal, aware that their sacrifice is made to free our country from foreign intervention and to prevent the terrible disease that still afflicts Nicaragua from infecting the rest of Central America.

This zeal gives them a high combat morale which, together with the strategy of ambush warfare, is causing serious setbacks to the enemy. Despite being better armed, more numerous, and having an inexhaustable logistical supply that contrasts with the conditions of our troops, the enemy has been unable to make us surrender even an inch of the territory that is under our control.

The combat morale of the EPS troops has deteriorated visibly because they do not want to fight for the Marxist-Leninist ideology that the Cuban-Soviets have introduced into our blood-bathed fatherland.

Without totalitarianism or a return to the past!

Fighting in Buenavista Region

PA110421 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 2300 GMT 10 Feb 84

[War Bulletin No 175 issued by the General Command of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces in "the mountains of Nicaragua," on 10 February]

[Text] The ARDE Armed Forces General Command informs the people of Nicaragua and the world that:

1. At 0700 on 8 February 1984 in the region of Buenavista, La Azucena municipality in southern Nicaragua, ARDE rebels, members of the (Raimundo Gonzalez) Column of the Barba 5 unit led by Companero Relampago clashed with EPS [Sandinist People's Army] troops.

2. The clash lasted 20 minutes, during which there was a heavy exchange of rifle fire. In the face of our forces' courage the enemy withdrew, taking with them several wounded and leaving eight dead.

3. With grief we report the death in combat of our companero, (Bernardino Gonzalez), but we are proud of the heroic way in which he died for his homeland to rescue the betrayed revolution.

Without totalitarianism or a return to the past!

30 Civilians 'Massacred' by Army

PA142203 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Text] Attention, Nicaraguan brothers; your attention for the following report from the ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance] National Directorate:

We announce and strongly condemn the following before the world's democratic peoples:

1. On 10 February 1984, interventionist troops belonging to Managua's pro-Soviet army indiscriminately massacred our brothers in the place known as (Chiquiana), in the area of Punta Gorda.

2. The deadly group from the Hitlerian army murdered more than 30 civilians in a cowardly fashion, thus continuing the orgy of violence and repression unleashed against our suffering people. They showed no mercy, despite the cries of mothers and children who were terrified at witnessing the murders.

3. The victims who perished in the pro-Soviet army's barbaric act include Miguel Flores, Adan and Gilberto Brizuelas, Crisanto Toledo, Tomas Zuniga, Claudio and Terencio Garcia, and the relatives of our Companero, Jose Morales.

4. We cannot remain silent in the face of such an atrocity. Once more, we condemn the continued genocide that is being perpetrated by the puppet Managua government against a defenseless population. We ask international organizations -- the International Red Cross, Amnesty International, and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights -- to request an investigation into the events reported herein.

Neither repression nor torture will bend the will of a nation that is struggling for its freedom! This was the ideal of Augusto Cesar Sandino, the general of free men and our national hero. His legacy is being misused today to cover up the crimes being committed by Marxist-Leninists in our bloodied homeland.

Attacks in Punta Gorda

PA141634 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 14 Feb 84

[War Bulletin No 169 issued by the General Command of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces to the people of Nicaragua and the world; "in the mountains of Nicaragua," on 13 February]

[Text] On 3 February 1984, the Gaspar Garcia Laviana Column of the Zacarias Rivas Group, led by Companero Chaleco, at the place known as Guitarrilla, Punta Gorda region, attacked the interventionist army. Our forces attacked five times, as follows: at 0700, 0730, 0815, 1100, and 1200. They used the tactic of 20-minute attacks, and inflicted on the enemy 24 dead and many wounded.

On 4 February 1984, the Gaspar Garcia Laviana Column of the Zacarias Rivas Group -- a name which was given to the group to honor a civilian collaborator who was killed in cold blood by the ominous State Security -- carried out further attacks at the same place at 1100 and 1200. Our forces inflicted 21 casualties on the enemy, including 8 confirmed dead. Afterward our column withdrew to the mountains, and the terrified members of the interventionist army did not dare follow them.

On 10 February 1984, these same forces were attacked by the Bulgarian-Cuban Air Forces [as heard] for 2 hours, from 1400 to 1600. The forces were attacked with powerful 500-lb bombs which were dropped at random by the airplanes. Despite the fierce attack, only Companero Superman was wounded by shrapnel.

Without totalitarianism or a return to the past!

Soviet Helicopter Destroyed

PA141246 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 14 Feb 84

[War Bulletin No 170, issued by the General Command of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces, to the people of Nicaragua and the world; "in the mountains of Nicaragua," on 13 February]

[Text] On 7 February 1984, at 1530, the Gaspar Garcia Laviana Column of the Pablo Martinez Group, led by Companero Callado, detected a helicopter carrying airborne troops 1 km from Boca Tapada and Agua Zarca, Punta Gorda region.

Our forces waited for it to land and, when the interventionist army's soldiers emerged, attacked them for 30 minutes with a barrage of rifle fire. Our forces inflicted on the enemy 37 dead and many wounded, and destroyed the Soviet-made Mi-8 helicopter.

The appearance of three of the dead men clearly showed that they were foreigners, apparently Soviets. This confirms once more our report that we are fighting against an Army supported by those who have intervened in Nicaragua.

Without totalitarianism or a return to the past!

Enemy Casualties Claimed

PA141949 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 14 Feb 84

[War Bulletin No 171 issued by the General Command of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces, to the people of Nicaragua and the world; "in the mountains of Nicaragua," 13 February]

[Text] 1. At 1400, 4 February 1984, in the place known as (Boca de Tortuga), Rio San Juan, the General (Ramon Raudales) Battalion, led by Companero Israel, and comprised of the groups Jaguar 1, led by Matamoros; Jaguar 2, led by Raul; Jaguar 3, led by Raton; Jaguar 4, led by Nunez; and Jaguar 5, led by Genaro, clashed head-on with the interventionist army's 5013 Battalion. We inflicted approximately 90 casualties, including 36 dead, during a 2-hour attack. Due to our forces' onslaught, the enemy withdrew and fled from the battlefield in complete disarray.

2. At 0715, 3 February 1984, the Jaguar 6 Group of the General (Ramon Raudales) Battalion, led by Companero Pedro, located a Sandinist People's Army patrol at the place known as (Cano Bartola), Punta Gorda region, and attacked it for 15 minutes. Our forces inflicted 8 dead and several wounded. We deplore the death of our Companero Pedro Antonio Sequeira during this clash; he died courageously for the liberty of our country.

3. At 1415, 7 February 1984, the Colmillo 6 Group of the General (Francisco Estrada) Column, led by Companero Juguete, at the place known as San Pablo -- located between San Isidro and El Carmen -- Punta Gorda region, ambushed a patrol of the interventionist army. During a 15-minute clash, our forces inflicted on the enemy 15 dead and 5 wounded. Afterward, our forces withdrew and left the enemy fighting among themselves.

Without totalitarianism or a return to the past!

LABOR LEADER HERNANDEZ CRITICIZES ELECTIONS

PA110417 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 2300 GMT 10 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Zacarias Hernandez, a labor union leader, has said that the people have already voted for the struggle being waged in the mountains of the south. We, the union leaders in exile, strongly criticize the violations of the agreements signed by the Marxist-Leninist Managua government. Our struggle continues at the side of laborers and peasants to rescue their goals, Hernandez added. The FSLN has tried to play with our working brothers, but they have made a terrible mistake; the Nicaraguan working classes are today more united than ever, despite the tortures, crimes, and jailings suffered by our brothers, Hernandez added.

Many complaints have been made before the ILO, International Labor Organization, because of constant violations of contracts which have been signed by Managua's dictatorial regime. We have been clear in our charges, and today the armed peoples of Latin America have realized the danger that Nicaragua represents to the Central American region. We cannot speak of elections or lend ourselves to the games played with our suffering people. In our beloved Nicaragua human rights are being violated, but the people of the working class will never play along with this farce, Hernandez continued. Now the STDN [Nicaraguan Workers Democratic Solidarity; Solidaridad de Trabajadores Democraticos Nicaraguenses] is united with the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, and we, the workers, are heard and have a vote. We are represented in ARDE's revolutionary directorate, working for a common cause and struggling for a truly free and democratic Nicaragua, Hernandez said. I call on all our brother portworkers in Corinto, INSA [no expansion given], and other groups who know of my struggle not to be afraid; our triumph is closer than ever, and the final victory will come through the ranks of ARDE from the mountains of southern Nicaragua, Zacarias Hernandez, a union leader and an active fighter for the demands of our working people in our homeland, concluded.

[Begin Zacarias Hernandez recording] The STDN takes advantage of this opportunity to speak on the segment Voice of the Worker [Voz del Trabajador]. The Nicaraguan people are already voting. The nine enemies of the Nicaraguan people and their comrades are preparing to mock our people once again. We, the workers, already know what type of elections these will be, if they are ever held. According to this new hoax, the presidential term will be for 5 years [as heard]. If we multiply 5 years of a presidential term by the 9 that today misgovern us, it means we have 45 more years of dictatorship ahead of us.

Nicaraguan brothers, we must show the tyrants that we don't want their elections and that there will be no elections in 1985, because there is no one to vote for. The workers in the rural and urban areas are already voting here in the south and along the Atlantic with the truly Sandinist and revolutionary rifle. This will give us back the peace and freedom that the nine have denied us. Our leaders all belong to ARDE, and the workers in the rural and urban areas will be the ones who tomorrow will truly participate in national decisionmaking. We want our companeros in the mountains of the south, led by Commander Eden Pastora Gomez and our beloved companero, Subcommander Brooklyn Rivera, to know that they are not alone. All the Nicaraguan workers represented in the Revolutionary Directorate by Donald Castillo and Zacarias Hernandez are making every effort possible before the countries of the world and the friends of Nicaragua to prevent the false elections. In the international field we are briefing all the international organizations about the status of our struggle. Our struggle continues, companeros; we have support. It is only a matter of time before we receive all the necessary help, and soon, companeros in the mountains of the south, we will be shoulder to shoulder with you, sharing your problems. We are not afraid to give our lives in exchange for the freedom of the Nicaraguan people.

This is your companero, Zacarias Hernandez Bustamante, secretary general of the STDN. [end recording]

CASTRO MEETS WITH BULGARIAN, POLISH LEADERS

FL141258 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Text] President Fidel Castro and members of the delegation accompanying him to the funeral of Soviet leader Yuriy Andropov have met in Moscow with Bulgaria's Todor Zhivkov and Grisha Filipov.

The secretary general of the Bulgarian Communist Party and the president of the Cuban Council of Ministers led their countries' delegations to the funeral of the man who was general secretary of the CPSU and Soviet chief of state. At the meeting, which took place in a very cordial and fond atmosphere, the leaders dealt with bilateral matters and questions having to do with the current international situation.

Also, Fidel Castro met with Wojciech Jaruzelski, first secretary of the Polish United Workers' Party. Jaruzelski was accompanied at the meeting by Henryk Jablonski, chairman of Poland's Council of State, and Jozef Czyrek, member of the Politburo and the PZPR Secretariat.

Present at the meeting from the Cuban delegation were: Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers; Jesus Montane and Roberto Veiga, alternate members of the Politburo; and Lionel Soto, member of the Central Committee Secretariat and ambassador to the USSR.

The meeting took place in an atmosphere of cordiality and friendship. Bilateral relations and the international situation were discussed.

Also Meets GDR Leaders

FL141418 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba, met with Erich Honecker, secretary general of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, at the funeral services for Soviet leader Yuriy Andropov. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations and other matters related to the current international situation.

CASTRO REPLIES TO DPRK ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS

SK150808 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0803 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] Pyongyang, Feb 15 (KCNA) -- The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, received a message from Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, and president of the State Council and president of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, in reply to his message of greetings to the latter on the 25th anniversary of the victory of the Cuban revolution.

The reply message, dated February 10, reads: I express deep thanks to you for your message of greetings sent to us on the 25th anniversary of the victory of the Cuban revolution.

FMC SENDS SYMPATHY MESSAGE TO SOVIET WOMEN

FL142325 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Condolence message addressed to the Committee of Soviet Women by the Federation of Cuban Women on the occasion of the death of Soviet leader Yuriy Andropov; date not given]

[Text] Valentina Nikolayeva-Tereshkova
Committee of Soviet Women
Ulitsa Nemirovicha-Danchenko 6
Moscow, USSR

In these moments of profound pain for the Soviet people, please receive, on behalf of the Cuban women and myself, our most heartfelt sympathy.

Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov devoted his entire life to the working class and to the cause of socialism, communism, and peace. His death is an irreparable loss for the communist movement and revolutionary, democratic, and progressive forces throughout the world.

The name of Yuriy Andropov, a staunch fighter for the ideals of communism and the causes of peace and detente, will remain in the hearts of the Soviets and the progressive peoples of the world forever.

Please receive, our dear Soviet people and party, the sincere and firm friendship of the Cuban women.

[Signed] Vilma Espin
President of the Federation of Cuban Women [FMC]

MALAGASY DELEGATES ARRIVE FOR CTC CONGRESS

FL141816 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Text] The first foreign delegation invited to the 15th CTC [Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions] Congress has arrived in Cuba from Madagascar. Making up the delegation are (Desire Ralambokaina), president of the Malagasy Federation of Trade Unions, and (Esebes Ronaevison), president of (Fisemar).

This announcement was made by Jesus Escandel, member of the CTC National Secretariat, who also announced that the Soviet delegation, headed by Stepan Shalayev, chairman of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions and member of the CPSU Central Committee, would arrive on Saturday.

CUBANA PLANE TERRORISTS TO STAY IN CARACAS JAIL

FL150148 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] It was reported today in Caracas that the four terrorists who were tried for blowing up a Cubana de Aviacion plane on 6 October 1976, which claimed the lives of 73 people, will remain in jail.

Venezuelan Judge Erasmo Perez Espana reported this and today ruled that the dossier must return to the reinstatement [reposicion] stage so that the prosecutors can list new charges. Perez Espana, who is assuming every responsibility on this ruling, stressed that there are great defects in the process, and for this reason the prosecutors must study the case again and list new charges against terrorists Orlando Bosch and Luis Posada Carriles, counterrevolutionaries of Cuban nationality; and Hernan Dicardo and Freddy Lugo, Venezuelan photographers.

FMLN PROPOSAL FOR SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT CITED

PA141253 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Feb 84

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The FMLN of El Salvador has submitted a peace proposal to end that country's domestic conflict, the provisions of which include a broad-based transitional government and the immediate implementation of a series of measures, including an end to the state of siege, the withdrawal of U.S. military advisers, and the reconstruction of the nation's economy.

The objectives of the FMLN proposal are to recover the nation's independence and sovereignty, to destroy the repressive system, to establish the foundations of a true democracy, to take care of the most urgent and immediate needs of the majority of the people, to establish the necessary practical conditions to resolve the present state of war, and to prepare genuinely free general elections in accordance with a reliable electoral registry.

The objectives, intended for immediate application, are contained in a 20-point platform that includes, in addition to those already mentioned, the abolition of the 1983 Constitution and of all decrees issued since 1980 that curtail individual and social freedoms, and the implementation of a constitutional statute for a transitional government. The other measures contained in the 20-point document are also intended to strengthen democracy in El Salvador and can, with those noted, be considered a government platform.

According to the document, which was read over the guerrilla radio station Radio Farabundo Marti, the democratic Salvadoran forces would participate in the provisional government, as would the Army, following a purge of its personnel. The Nationalist Revolutionary Alliance, ARENA, an extreme rightist party, and the oligarchy would both be excluded.

The FMLN also proposed that the provisional government implement a peaceful foreign policy and that the country join the Nonaligned Movement. Regarding relations with the United States, the FMLN proposes that the two countries sign agreements to guarantee the national security of each. The agreements would establish that the provisional Salvadoran Government would not permit foreign military bases or missiles on its territory, while the United States would agree not to carry out any attack on or actions to destabilize the provisional Salvadoran Governments. Relations between the provisional Salvadoran Government and the United States and Central America would be reoriented on the basis of full respect for the rights of self-determination, independence, sovereignty, and mutual cooperation.

In order to achieve the objectives of the FMLN proposal, a dialogue for negotiation among the parties in conflict, a delegation of the Salvadoran revolutionary organizations, representatives of the government and Armed Forces, and U.S. roving Ambassador Richard Stone would be necessary. The negotiations should be established without any preconditions, and mediators, representatives of the Contadora Group or of any democratic government, could participate as witnesses.

The FMLN would agree to a cease-fire once the process of dialogue and negotiations had begun, and to the organization of a national army formed by the guerrilla forces of the FMLN and the government's Armed Forces, following a purge.

Shortly after this peace proposal was announced by the clandestine Radio Farabundo Marti, members of the political-diplomatic commission of the Salvadoran revolutionary organizations presented the document at a news conference for foreign correspondents.

Guillermo Ungo, Ruben Zamora, and other members of the commission said that the proposal goes beyond the elections scheduled for 15 March, and was submitted in view of the possibility of a massive, direct U.S. intervention. Ungo said that the FMLN-FDR would not boycott the March elections because they believe this electoral maneuver has already failed.

GUATEMALAN RIGHTS COMMISSION REPORTS VIOLATIONS

FL150055 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1900 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Text] A report from Mexico City has cited an increase in human rights violations in Guatemala, especially in the labor sector.

A communique issued by the Guatemalan Human Rights Commission stated that Amancio Villatorio and Alfonso Alvarado, leaders of the National Central Organization of Guatemalan Workers [Central Nacional de Trabajadores de Guatemala], were captured by security forces on 30 and 31 January, respectively. It also said that Sergio [name indistinct] de Leon, a student and adviser to this Guatemalan labor organization and other unions, was also kidnapped and has been missing ever since.

Meanwhile, ENFOPRENSA reported that the Rebel Armed Forces carried out several actions in El Peten Department in which at least four state-owned fuel tankers were burned.

Union Leader Still Missing

PA142039 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Feb 84

[Text] Sergio Aldana Galvani, secretary general of the union of PRENSA LIBRE, a Guatemalan newspaper, is still missing. He was kidnapped on Friday by unidentified persons. Aldana Galvani was kidnapped by a group of armed men while walking in downtown Guatemala City with other union members.

COMMENTARY ON MISKITO SITUATION IN HONDURAS

PA141437 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 13 Feb 84

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] Honduras has become the most important U.S. war strategy satellite in Central America, particularly against Nicaragua. Ever since the victory of the Sandinist revolution in 1979, Nicaragua has been the target of innumerable aggressions, organized outside its borders. This covert war is, in fact, an open war financed and directed by the U.S. Government, which has included air, maritime, and land attacks, sabotage, and actions that have claimed the lives of entire peasant families, militiamen, and soldiers of the People's Sandinist Army.

The counterrevolutionary plans of the U.S. strategists have been massive, and Washington has continuously asked for increased funds to finance this dirty war against Nicaragua. Only the firm determination, fighting spirit, and organization of the Nicaraguan people and their leaders have kept at bay the counterrevolutionary groups made up of former Somozist guardsmen and mercenaries.

One of Washington's most shameful acts is the use of Miskito Indian communities in its plans against the Nicaraguan revolution. Thousands of Miskito Indians have already been kidnapped, threatened, or deceitfully lured into Honduras to be used in the counter-revolutionary plans.

Through the Honduran regime and the counterrevolutionary leaders, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, CIA, takes advantage of the ignorance and isolation in which these Indians have been kept for centuries, causing them to have a false picture of the revolutionary process underway in Nicaragua. Most of the Miskitos do not speak Spanish, and none of the regimes that ruled Nicaragua before 1979 ever bothered to extend education, medical care, or development to the Miskito communities.

The Nicaraguan Government of National Reconstruction respects the organization and cultural traditions of the Miskitos and has even distributed property titles among them as part of the agrarian reform in the country. Scores of Miskito communities were transferred to central Nicaragua as a protective measure in view of constant counter-revolutionary attacks against these communities in the areas near the Honduran border.

The counterrevolutionary groups increased their operations among the Miskitos, whom they deceived or threatened into emigrating to Honduras, causing serious relocation problems. They also committed collective crimes against the Miskitos who tried to return to their place of origin once they realized they had been deceived.

The creation of the Organization for the Liberation of Honduran Indians was recently announced abroad. Its coordinator, Julio Cesar Calderon Morales, affirmed at the seat of the Federation of Latin American Journalists in Mexico City that the Nicaraguan Miskitos who are taken to Honduran territory want to return to Nicaragua, but are threatened with death or murder when they try to escape.

Calderon Morales said that counterrevolutionary groups massacred 200 Miskito Indians last January in the Segovia River when they tried to return to Nicaragua to accept the amnesty decreed by the Sandinist government guaranteeing the safety of the Miskitos who returned home. Calderon Morales also charged that the Nicaraguan Indian women taken to Honduras are forced into prostitution by the counterrevolutionaries operating against Nicaragua. A similar situation affects Honduran Miskito Indian women, he added.

All these crimes committed by the reactionary forces against the Miskitos contrast with the measures adopted by the Government of National Reconstruction to erase ignorance and misery in their communities.

GROUP OF CEMA SPECIALISTS ARRIVES IN NICARAGUA

FL150001 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2100 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Text] A delegation of CEMA specialists, headed by Angel Chaucheu, the assistant secretary, has arrived in Nicaragua. The members of this delegation met with Henry Ruiz, member of the FSLN National Directorate and planning minister, and leaders of various ministries and departments of that country.

The visit will allow the delegation to draft recommendations aimed at increasing cooperation between Nicaragua and the CEMA in the areas of economic planning, agriculture, the training of cadres, and forestry, as well as the textile and mining industries.

A cooperation agreement between Nicaragua and CEMA was signed in September 1983. According to this agreement, Nicaragua becomes an observer at this council.

56 MISKITOS, 23 OTHER NICARAGUANS ACCEPT AMNESTY

PA142147 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Text] It was reported in Managua in the last few days that 79 Nicaraguans, 56 of them Miskito Indians, have taken advantage of the amnesty decrees that were approved by the Nicaraguan Government in December.

The report adds that the Miskitos surrendered to Sandinist authorities in Puerto Cabezas, 360 km from Managua. They admitted that they had been deceived by counterrevolutionary propaganda. The Miskitos, most of whom are from Puerto Cabezas, asked for an opportunity to start a new life.

SABOTAGE PLAN FOILED; 2 CAPTURED IN NICARAGUA

FL150040 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1900 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Text] Sandinist officials have uncovered a vast terrorist plan following the capture of Manuel Betanco and Isidro Moran, two counterrevolutionaries who entered Nicaragua from Honduras.

These men, who were members of the so-called Nicaraguan Democratic Force [FDN], entered Nicaragua from Honduras, together with a task force, carrying large quantities of C-4 plastic explosives with which they intended to sabotage the country's most important economic centers and the infrastructure. The counterrevolutionaries said that they had received courses in psychological warfare, radio communications, and the use of explosives in Honduras. They added that the instructors were from the United States.

These men said that their assignments included the destruction of the German Pomares Sugar Mill, a hydroelectric dam, and the machinery at the San Antonio Sugar Mill, the largest in Nicaragua. The captured counterrevolutionaries hid explosives and bombs only 2 meters from the German Pomares Sugar Mill and at a farther distance from the San Antonio Sugar Mill. However, they were unable to carry out the sabotage actions because of the vigilance there.

Betanco and Moran said that there were Argentine and Cuban instructors at the counterrevolutionary camps in Honduras. They stressed that they had also planned to burn cotton gins, attack military units, and damage bridges with C-4 plastic explosives and mortar shells. However, when they were unable to carry out these actions, they decided to return to Honduras, which is when they were captured.

These 2 counterrevolutionaries, along with 10 people implicated in terrorist actions at Puerto Corinto, were presented at a press conference.

PANAMANIAN RESHUFFLE TERMED CONSTITUTIONAL

FL150203 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] The unexpected replacement of Ricardo de la Espriella by Jorge Illueca as the Panamanian president took a turn toward legitimacy this afternoon after Supreme Court President Americo Rivera stressed that the change was constitutional. However, Illueca, the new Panamanian president and president of the UN General Assembly, has not concluded consultations to form a new government.

After learning about De La Espriella's resignation, the ministers of public works, finance, health, commerce, and presidency, as well as the secretary of the executive branch, announced that they will resign from the government.

In the past few hours, rumors increased that De la Espriella's resignation was due to the nomination of banker Nicolas Ardito Barletta as the government party's candidate for the 6 May presidential elections. Opposition sources described De la Espriella's replacement as a virtual coup d'etat aimed at guaranteeing Ardito Barletta's victory in the May elections.

A spokesman of the U.S. Embassy in Panama City refused to comment on Monday's incidents. But government newspapers carried a photo of U.S. Ambassador Everett Briggs with Illueca, both of them smiling, on their front pages.

MEXICAN PRESIDENT CALLS FOR PEACE, COOPERATION

FL142345 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2100 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Text] Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid has issued a new call for peace in the world and particularly in Central America. He made this statement in Mexico City where he received the new ambassadors of Bolivia, Cyprus, and Finland.

The need must be stressed, the Mexican president noted, to achieve peace and stabilization in the world and in Central America. De la Madrid also mentioned the urgent need for increased cooperation that goes beyond the economic differences existing in the world.

Meanwhile, the ambassadors of Bolivia, Cyprus, and Finland expressed their governments' support for the peace efforts of the Contadora Group, made up of Mexico, Panama, Colombia, and Venezuela, a PRELA dispatch reported.

RAIN, LANDSLIDES CAUSE VICTIMS, DAMAGE IN PERU

PA142011 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Feb 84

[Text] Peruvian police have reported that nine peasants were killed in a landslide near Chumbivilca. Heavy rains in the area created an avalanche of mud and rocks that buried the peasants and their cattle, and raised the level of the Rimac River. About 20 houses were destroyed, and about 200 others were flooded. The floods destroyed crops in the El Moron area.

It was reported from Arequipa that three rivers overflowed, resulting in crops being destroyed.

SUNDAY'S ELECTIONS IN HAITI CRITICIZED

FL101738 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 10 Feb 84

[Text] Sunday's elections in Haiti are a big Duvalier show promoted by the United States aimed at giving apparent legitimacy to a lifetime term of tyranny.

From the outset of the campaign it could be seen that a mock electoral campaign was underway between a powerful autocratic government system with powerful means and a solidaristic, unarmed, and gagged adversary. Serge Beaulieu, a journalist and former Haitian consul to Barbados, was the only independent candidate who dared run in the elections against the all-embracing [word indistinct] Jean-Claude Duvalier.

Beaulieu's campaign has faced all kinds of problems. His offices were seized and his files were destroyed. He is not allowed to make public or radio appearances and his campaign director was banned from leaving Port-au-Prince.

The Progressive and Radical Democratic Unity of Haiti [Union de Democracia Radical y Progresista de Haiti], which is headquartered in Caracas, described the elections as a farce to impress people abroad. It also charged that the U.S. Government is trying to give a democratic facade to Duvalier's dynastic dictatorship.

U.S. Secretary George Shultz told Congress recently that the Haitian Government is making efforts to improve its human rights situation. This remark was made to support continued U.S. aid for the Haitian regime.

Meanwhile, policemen in Haiti are going around threatening to harass those who vote for Beaulieu, the only independent candidate who dared run in the elections.

TRINIDAD GROUP: CARICOM TRADE NO LONGER VIABLE

FL141555 Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 5 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Feb 4 (CANA) -- The Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers Association (TTMA) has called for the suspension of the trade and investment provisions in manufactured goods, agriculture, and energy for the 13-nation Caribbean Community (Caricom). "The fundamental reason for Caricom, the expansion of the domestic (manufacturing) base, is no longer valid, and...the trading arrangements in the Caricom Treaty are no longer viable," the Association said in a statement. The TTMA said this position was reached in a series of resolutions passed last week at a special general meeting. The resolutions have been passed to Prime Minister George Chambers.

The Association said the motion related to Caricom trade was passed in the light of regional trade "continuing to be beset by problems," including quantitative restrictions, protracted payment procedures, stringent import licensing, infringement of the rules of origin, and suspension of the multi-lateral clearing facility. The TTMA also cited "the further deterioration of Caricom trade arising out of the devaluation of the Jamaican dollar" by 43 per cent last November.

The Association said it would urge government to replace wide Caricom trade provisions with bilateral deals with Jamaica, Barbados, Guyana, and member territories of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

The TTMA said it will also seek from government guidelines for the implementation of bartering with individual member states of Caricom. Another resolution called for the Association to be represented at all Caricom meetings, particularly in trade and industry matters.

BARBADOS

ADAMS CONCERNED OVER TAX RELATIONS WITH U.S.

FL141611 Bridgetown ADVOCATE in English 9 Feb 84 p 1

[By Jewel Brathwaite]

[Text] Prime Minister Tom Adams said yesterday that Barbados was very concerned with its tax relations with the United States. He also said this country had been a victim of a generalised approach by treasury officials in that country.

Mr Adams, who is also Minister of Finance and Planning, spoke to the press after a luncheon with United States Secretary of State George Shultz, who ended an official visit to Barbados yesterday.

The Prime Minister said the U.S. appeared to have become very worried over the evasion of taxes on incomes earned in that country by foreigners and to some extent by its citizens.

He pointed also to what he called the laundering of money by criminal and other undesirable "elements" in the U.S., who were also causing concern.

The Prime Minister explained that this led to an atmosphere where pressure in Congress and in the American society for tax breaks available to people overseas at the expense of the U.S. Treasury should be restricted.

"I am fully in favour of this policy for any country. I don't believe that any country should sit idly by and see its tax laws evaded or see its citizens able to put away their criminal gains...without easing access by law enforcement authorities in the country," he stated.

"But I think a very grave error has been made by the United States in associating Barbados in any way with these developments. There has never been the slightest suggestion that Barbados has been used as a centre for laundering criminal money or that there is any unreasonable evasion of American tax laws by persons or companies whether foreign- or American-based in Barbados."

Adams said he felt Barbados "became a victim of a generalised approach by treasury officials in the U.S. that did not take account of individual differences between overseas companies tax arrangements." He noted that last year the U.S. had abrogated a number of tax treaties which existed with former British and Belgium colonies, with Barbados included.

He said that as a result, Barbados found itself having to explain to U.S. investors who have long had economic activities here that "we can no longer give them the break of allowing them to remit their profits outside the country without a withholding tax." He said the investors here were finding their investments threatened.

TULL ON EASTERN CARIBBEAN-U.S. COOPERATION

FL141602 Bridgetown ADVOCATE in English 9 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] Foreign Minister Louis Tull has said it was evident that co-operation between the Eastern Caribbean and the United States must be placed on a permanent and secure footing, to embrace military and economic assistance to the region.

Speaking at a luncheon in honour of the visiting American Secretary of State, George Shultz, the Barbadian Foreign Minister said it should not be beyond their capabilities to put together a package which would allow the Eastern Caribbean to make full use of its human and material resources.

Tull pointed to a number of areas in which he said U.S. assistance will be needed. These being in the area of surveillance of territorial waters, adjacent coasts, and air space; assistance in the area of training of military and civilian forces to ensure that political freedom was not threatened by "lawless adventureres and political opportunists"; and to ensure that the social and economic deprivation which breed unrest was removed. Tull said that 1983 was a milestone in the history of Caribbean-American relations, highlighted by the birth of the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI).

He noted that at the heart of the American initiative was a concept of development to which the Caribbean fully subscribed, these being self-reliant development based on trade.

Said Tull: "We firmly believe that an export-led growth deriving from a dynamic private sector performance provides the best prospects for our small and fragile island economies."

Tull also touched on Grenada saying, among other things, that a miscalculated U.S. withdrawal of American troops from that island could leave a dangerous vacuum which could be filled by political mischief-makers.

"On the other hand, there are serious social and political disadvantages if large contingents of foreign troops remain on the island for too long," he added.

DOMINICA

JUDGE DISMISSES SEIGNORET INJUNCTION CASE

FL141846 Bridgetown CANA in English 1824 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, Feb 14 (CANA) -- A high court judge today dismissed an application for an injunction which sought to prevent President Clarence Seignoret from performing his duties, court sources said. The application was made by unsuccessful candidate in the December 19 presidential elections accountant Star Lestrade.

Hearing of a substantive motion by Lestrade, 61, to have the elections declared null and void was postponed until February 27 by Judge Satrohan Singh. Lestrade failed to gain a vote in the election, with Seignoret recording 26 of the 27 votes cast under secret ballot by members of Parliament, as required under the Dominica Constitution. The other ballot was spoilt. The sources said Judge Singh dismissed the application on the grounds that "the president is not a party to the motion filed in the high court." They said costs were awarded against Lestrade.

Earlier this month, Lestrade filed a motion in the high court contending that the election had been contested in violation of the Dominica Constitution. Lestrade had named Prime Minister Eugenia Charles, Attorney General Ronan David, and Speaker of Parliament Marie Davis Pierre, as respondents in the motion, which also seeks relief in respect of damages to the applicant and costs in the matter to be paid by the respondents. Lestrade is also seeking answers to a number of questions, all dealing with the constitutionality of the election of Seignoret. One question seeks to determine whether the speaker of Parliament acted properly in presiding over the election.

Today Judge Singh decided to postpone hearing on the matter in open court on the grounds that one of the three people named as respondents in the matter has not yet been served with a copy of the motion. Prime Minister Charles is now out of the state on a two-week visit, and the judge decided to set hearing on the matter for February 27, after he was given the assurance that she will be back in the state over this weekend.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

PRIME MINISTER OUTLINES PRIORITIES FOR 1984

FL131925 Bridgetown CANA in English 1855 GMT 13 Feb 84

[By Rudi Williams]

[Excerpts] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Feb 13 (CANA) -- Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister George Chambers says his priorities for 1984 are tackling the country's high crime rate, paying more attention to agriculture, and going on more "meeting the people" tours.

Addressing the closing session of the three-day conference of the ruling People's National Movement (PNM) last night, Chambers said he was becoming "increasingly concerned" over the high incidence of crime, especially robbery and rape.

Dealing with agriculture, Chambers said he would be getting more personally involved in the agricultural diversification drive of the state-owned sugar company, Caroni Ltd. Government policy provides for the sugar producing company to diversify into food production to cut the country's high food import bill. Some 50,000 acres of prime agricultural land has been ear-marked for the project. Chambers also noted the suggestion by one of his party's constituency groups that he should continue his "meeting the people" tours. Chambers said the PNM intends to concentrate heavily on Tobago this year in order to make its presence more felt there. The sister island is controlled by the opposition.

The central government has been in constant friction with the Tobago House of Assembly (THA) controlled by opposition Democratic Action Congress led by Anr Robinson. Elections for the assembly are due later this year.

Chambers said that on his visits he plans to spread the government's message of "restraint" as outlined in the government's 1984 budget. The government is currently adjusting to declining revenues from its economic mainstay, petroleum, while trying to revitalise the economy through stepped up exports and more careful husbandry of foreign reserves. Chambers also said the PNM plans to start a party newspaper, proposals for which are to be discussed at the PNM highest levels soon.

CHAMBERS VIEWS REASONS FOR IMPORT CURBS

FL112053 Bridgetown CANA in English 2030 GMT 11 Feb 84

[By Rudi Williams]

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Feb 11, CANA -- Trinidad and Tobago, criticised by Caribbean Community (Caricom) partners for introducing import curbs, says the moves were in the country's interests. "I owe no apology to anyone within or without for instituting measures aimed at protecting the interests of the people of Trinidad and Tobago," said Chambers to members of his ruling People's National Movement (PNM) at the party's annual convention at Chaguaramas last night.

Last October Finance Minister Chambers, faced with declining revenues from the all-important oil sector announced measures to curb the outflow of foreign exchange on "inessential" imports. This was followed last month by the Central Bank's publication of a list of items to be subjected to varying import quota cuts. The move has caused concern among Caricom states, many of which have a lucrative export trade to Trinidad and Tobago.

Chambers said last night the non-oil sector must grow "significantly" to fill "the foreign exchange gap which may widen owing to the situation in the oil industry." He said government's setting up of an Export Development Corporation (EDU) and imminent legislation for "more generous" export allowances were part of "the herculean effort to galvanize exports."

The country must develop sufficient flexibility in its industrial sector, said the prime minister, in order to take full advantage of export opportunities.

In this connection, Chambers referred to a recently announced government decision to review the role of the Industrial Development Corportion. While the EDC was designed to underpin government's efforts to broaden the economy's export base, Chambers said the need was still there to conserve foreign exchange. "The acceleration of the development process depends critically on the country's ability to pay for imports," he said. "In the first instance we must conserve the foreign exchange saved in the boom years (of oil)," he said, saying this was the rationale for last October's foreign exchange curbs.

The prime minister said that while Washington's Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) and the Lome Convention provided potentially greater (duty-free) access to markets in the U.S. and Europe respectively, local manufacturers must be prepared to seize the opportunities.

He saw the need for concerted action at all levels -- government, business, and labour -- "if we are to move with confidence into the international market-place."

ANTICRIME OPERATION SPURS DRUG SEIZURES, ARRESTS

FL102218 Bridgetown CANA in English 2012 GMT 10 Feb 84

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, February 10 (CANA) -- Trinidad and Tobago police have arrested more than 120 people, destroyed hundreds of thousands of marijuana plants, and confiscated illegal drugs and other goods in an intensive crime busting operation over the past week. In the latest action yesterday, police burnt some 800,000 marijuana plants spread over a 14-acre plot in southern Trinidad, Wilbert William, assistant commissioner, crime, told CANA today. He said the field contained fully grown trees, and thousands of seedlings in nursery. But said he was unable to give a value of the crop. He said three shotguns and a large quantity of ammunition were seized. Two men were charged with cultivating marijuana.

Last weekend an islandwide dragnet involving 300 policemen resulted in the arrest of 120 people.

Police sources said today all those were charged for various offences. Some have been charged for the possession of marijuana totalling half a million dollars (one TT dollar; 41 cents U.S.) in value, possession of cocaine valued at 100,000 dollars, and unlawful possession of jewellry, appliances, and counterfeit Trinidad and Tobago 100 dollar bills and other items.

Police said the anti-crime operation was the result of two weeks planning and reflected concern at the rate of robberies here. They described it as successful.

But as commissioner Randolph Burroughs said following last Sunday's crackdown: "Crime is like flies. You shoo' them away and they return soon after. So it is not a question of winning or losing." He added: "What I know is that we (the police) will continue this operation to ensure that the decent and law-abiding citizens -- the vast majority of us -- are allowed to live in peace and harmony."

RICE SHORTAGE SPURS INDUSTRY RESTRUCTURING

FL110210 Bridgetown CANA in English 2327 GMT 10 Feb 84

[By Edwin Ali]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 10 (CANA) -- It's ironic but true: Guyana, which provides much of the rice eaten within the Caribbean community, is experiencing a shortage of this staple at home. It's not that there's no rice in the country, but wholesalers and retailers, apparently sensing an imminent price increase as a result of recently announced plans to restructure the industry, have removed virtually all stocks. That's at least the way the state-run Guyana Rice Board [GRB] sees the problem.

The plan to restructure the GRB was announced January 30 by Finance Minister Carl Greenridge in his 1984 budget. It ostensibly seeks to improve the sector's milling and marketing. But economic observers here say the move has the hallmarks of an International Monetary Fund (IMF) demand for a freeing up of the industry's rigid government controls as part of conditions for granting Guyana much needed balance of payments support.

The Rice Board -- sole marketer of the product here -- maintains that adequate stocks have been distributed to wholesalers around Guyana; and the wholesalers in turn blame the retailers for hoarding, pending what they expect will be a price increase within the next few weeks. The GRB has declined to give specific details on the quantity of rice it has distributed, and some wholesalers say they have not been given any quotas for 1984, and have exhausted their last stocks since December.

The unavailability of the commodity is having a disastrous effect on the 790,000 population that is 51 percent East Indian and 43 per cent African. Guyanese have apparently declined to turn to ground provisions, the price of which is skyrocketing as a result of the 20 per cent devaluation of the local currency on January 10. Even government outlets are without rice, but the central warehouse of the GRB in Georgetown was selling to individuals last Saturday, when hundreds converged on the building demanding that they be sold some. Some stall holders in the three municipal markets had been limiting what stocks they had to one pint for each individual and within a few hours, they had no more. General manager of the GRB Leon Dundas says it's simply that some "unscrupulous persons" are hoarding the rice in the hope that there would be a price increase soon and they would stand to benefit.

Under the proposals for restructuring the GRB, there will be a separating of the milling and marketing functions of the board, and an autonomous grading authority will be set up to maintain technical standards. The GRB will no longer be responsible for drying, milling, and storing rice, and will in the future be called the Guyana Rice Export Board (GREB). These previous responsibilities will fall within the responsibility of a new institution to be called the Guyana Rice Milling Corporation (GRMC). No details of the organisational structure of this proposed corporation have as yet been released, but it is understood that it will include a number of private millers and big businessmen. Part of the restructuring plan calls for the private millers to enter contracts for the export of rice, but this is to be done only through the GREB, which will claim a commission for the exercise of its functions.

The coming weeks should give an indication as to just how much the industry will benefit from the "freeing up" move. Guyana has some 200,000 people employed in the rice industry that last year exported 41,715 tons to the Caribbean and beyond. Production for this year is projected to be 72,000 tons.